
1993 Annual Convention

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The 1993 Convention and Annual Meeting was held April 1 to 3 at the Campbell Centre Doubletree Inn in Dallas, Texas. Ninety members of the Society enjoyed a taste of Texas hospitality during their stay in Dallas. The convention featured tours to the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and to several private gardens that featured azaleas. Other highlights included the evening talks that focussed on subjects of interest to the participants, the plant sale room, and the many opportunities for "azalea talk." Although cool spring temperatures had delayed the azalea bloom, the weather factors combined in the end to place the peak azalea bloom precisely at the time of the convention.



On Thursday evening following registration, the participants enjoyed a preview of the convention activities given by the president of the Dallas Chapter, Steve Brainerd.

Friday morning was a bright sunny day and we boarded busses for the garden tour. The first stop was at the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O. Hicks, Jr., followed by a tour of the Dallas Arboretum where members enjoyed the azalea-filled color garden in full bloom, and the misty fern dell where azaleas provide islands of color. Lunch was served at the Arboretum.



From the Arboretum we visited two more private gardens, those of Dr. and Mrs. Willis Cottel and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Simmons, both large gardens with many azaleas in bloom. A complete description of all of the gardens that were toured appeared in the December 1992 issue of *THE AZALEAN*.

Friday evening featured two interesting speakers. First, Peter Girard, Jr. talked about the Girard Hybrids, that were developed by his late father and him. Then Dr. Clarence Towe of Walhalla, South Carolina, talked about Hybridizing Native Azaleas. An outline of his talk appears in the sidebar.

Saturday was devoted to a bus journey to Pittsburg, Texas, to visit the garden and estate of Bo and Patty Pilgrim. Saturday evening the participants enjoyed the annual banquet at the Doubletree Inn, followed by the Society's annual meeting and a talk on Deciduous Azaleas by Fred Galle. Bob Stelloh provided a report on the



TOP: Stephen Brainerd, Dallas Chapter President and newly-elected Society Vice-President, hosts the annual banquet

CENTER: Don Voss receives the Distinguished Service Award from ASA President Malcolm Clark

BOTTOM: Fred Galle addresses the convention participants on "Deciduous Azaleas"

Photographs by William C. Miller III

The following information on hybridizing native azaleas was provided by Dr. L. Clarence Tower:

Hybridizing Native Azaleas (Generalizations)

(A) Why hybridize?

- (1) Obtain seedlings—random pollination
- (2) Obtain specific goal—very selective pollination
- (3) Have fun—bicolors and blotches—thoughtful pollination

(B) Desirable traits of parents and selections

- (1) Rootable
- (2) Floriferous
- (3) Wide petals
- (4) Fragrant
- (5) Vigorous
- (6) Good foliage
- (7) Mildew resistant

(C) Best bets for fun:

White or Pink	X	Red,	Orange or Yellow
<i>R. arborescens</i>		<i>R. atlanticum/alabamense/ canescens</i>	<i>R. nudiflorum/roseum</i>
X		X	X
<i>R. bakeri</i>		<i>R. speciosum</i>	<i>R. bakeri</i>
or		or	or
<i>R. prunifolium</i>		<i>R. austrinum</i>	<i>R. calendulaceum</i>

(D) General suggestions:

- (1) Use hybrid(s) as parents—large gene pool gives variance
- (2) Use *arborescens* or *atlanticum* rather than small whites
- (3) Germinate seeds in December—24 hours light until spring
- (4) Potting medium should drain immediately (sand/peat/perlite)
- (5) Root cuttings early—mist—24 hours light for 4-6 weeks
- (6) Miracid—1 tsp. per gallon for seedlings; 1 Tbsp. per gallon for cuttings/pots
- (7) Raise 25 from one cross rather than 5 from 5 crosses

status of the George Harding memorial garden being developed at the American Horticulture Society's headquarters in Mount Vernon, Virginia. Two amendments to the Society's by-laws were also approved. These amendments, the text of which were published in the December 1992 issue of **THE AZALEAN**, have to do with investment management and budgeting.

As reported in the December 1992 issue of **THE AZALEAN** the annual meeting included the report of the nominating committee on the results of the mail ballot for the officers for 1993-1994 and the directors class of 1995:

President: Malcolm Clark

Vice President:

Stephen S. Brainerd

Directors: Jeff Beasley, Fred Minch, Rosalie Nachman

Also announced at the Annual Meetings were awards from the Society for 1993 as follows:

Distinguished Achievement: Mr. Fred Galle

Distinguished Service: Mr. Don Voss

Best Article in **THE AZALEAN** for 1991: Ms. Jane Newman

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting were summarized in the June 1993 issue of **THE AZALEAN**. □