

Ben Morrison Chapter News

Nuran Miller, *President*

On July 17, 1994 the Ben Morrison Chapter had a cutting picnic and a plant exchange at George and Sue Switzer's. In spite of a drizzling rain we were still able to take cuttings and exchange plants. We held elections as follows:

President: Nuran Miller

Vice-President: Allen D. Jones

Secretary: June Thomas

Treasurer: Sewell T. Moore

The plans for Ben Morrison memorial bench and plaque at the George Harding Garden were finalized. Furthermore, we decided that we would support the Children's Program at the American Horticulture Society.

The members discussed the goals and objectives of our chapter. Emphasis on increasing membership was agreed on. A spring flower show and plant sale are future plans to secure new members. As part of publicity, we also nominated our new member, Carolyn Segree as our Publicity Chairman.

Our coming meeting is on September 11, 1994 at 2:00 PM at the Fairview Library in Dunkirk MD. Charles Hanners will share with us his video of Azaleas and Winter '94 in Southern MD followed by a discussion of the protection of azaleas in winter.

On December 11, 1994 we will have our Annual Holiday Gathering with members bringing a covered dish and a gift for exchange. □

Azalea Calendar

1994

- September 21** Dallas Chapter Meeting at 6:30, Tuesday, at the Dallas Arboretum
- October 7-9** ARS Western Regional Conference in Lynnwood, Washington
- October 15** Glenn Dale Preservation Project Work Day; for more information contact Bill Miller (301) 365-0692
- October 15** Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of **THE AZALEAN**
- October 29** Board of Director's Meeting at The U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.
- November 1** Dallas Chapter Meeting at 6:30PM, Tuesday, at the Highland Park Town Hall
- November 19** Glenn Dale Preservation Project Work Day; for more information contact Bill Miller (301) 365-0692
- December 11** Ben Morrison Christmas Party Meeting

1995

- May 4-6** Azalea Society Annual Meeting and Convention to be held by the Brookside Chapter in Maryland Suburbs of Washington, D.C.

Oconee Chapter News

The Oconee Chapter of the Azalea Society of America held its first Spring meeting on April 24, 1994. The site of the meeting was the First Baptist Church of Conyers, GA.

The first part of our program was Jim Thornton's presentation of slides depicting "Problems with Azaleas". The slide presentation, inspired by nursery customers' and radio talk-show callers' often-asked questions, demonstrated leaf blight, yellowing leaves and other worrisome problems. Jim said to let him know what we wanted to see, and he would be glad to show other problems from time-to-time.

Earl Hester was introduced for the second part of the program. Earl's talk on "Cuttings to Gallons" was most informative. What began as a hobby seven years ago for Earl and his wife Dorothy

has now gone "amok". Because cuttings for their first interest, native azaleas, were too difficult to obtain, the Hesters figured they would not live long enough to sell any plants. They changed their focus and now grow only evergreen azaleas.

Earl said there were many ways to grow cuttings, but he would share his method with us. Beginning about mid-May to early June, he sets his cuttings in pure, double-ground pine bark in six pack containers. These containers, which carry the trade-name 1206s, fit a 10-inch by 20-inch web flat. Earl does not use any root hormone. He waters with a mist system controlled by a time clock. Cuttings root in approximately 14 to 17 days.

Many of his cuttings are sold in flats, and some cuttings are transferred to gallon containers. He started with 21, and now sells over 150 different varieties. □