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# 1996 Convention and Annual Meeting

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**Peggy Kirkland**  
**Stephen Brainerd**  
*Dallas, Texas*

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The 1996 ASA Convention and Annual Meeting will be held March 28-30 at the Holiday Inn Northpark Plaza in Dallas, Texas. The Holiday Inn Northpark Plaza, located on the northeast corner of Highway 75 (listed on maps as Central Expressway in the greater Dallas Metropolitan area) and Meadow Road, is centrally located in relation to shopping, restaurants, entertainment, and fine gardens in north Dallas.

## Convention Overview

The 1996 convention program is packed with interest, but scheduled to allow the weary delegates chances to rest their legs during the day. Registration will be Thursday afternoon and evening. Following the dinner hour, an introduction to the Friday tours will be presented by Thomas J. Brinda, vice-president of The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society, and Naud Burnett, a landscape architect and founding president of the Dallas Chapter of ASA. Friday morning and afternoon will feature seminars and tours at The Dallas Arboretum followed by a visit to a spectacular garden which was visited by delegates at the 1993 ASA Convention. Lunch will be served at The Dallas Arboretum overlooking White Rock Lake. Delegates will listen to speakers at the Holiday Inn on Friday evening, from 6:00PM to 7:30PM. Paul Fields, a landscape architect with Lambert Gardens, will describe two private gardens to be visited on Saturday morning. Henry Painter, Director of the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens, will discuss his city's Japanese Garden. Two videos will then be viewed: first a tape produced by PBS Victory Garden on a private Japanese-style garden that delegates will tour, then a short video tape of the Ft. Worth Stockyards Historical District. Dinner Friday will be on your own. Saturday morning delegates will tour three private gardens. Following the garden tours, we will go by bus to the historic Stockyards in Ft. Worth, Texas. This area exemplifies the true flavor of the old west at the turn of the century and has been extensively restored to its former glory. Interesting shops and restaurants replaced the thousands of cattle, horses, mules, sheep and hogs that filled the pens and sheds earlier in this century. You will be on your own for lunch at any restaurant of your choosing in this compact area (menus and restaurant descriptions will be included in the registration packet). After lunch, we will go to the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden for a tour of their Japanese Garden, which is extensively landscaped with azaleas. Saturday's banquet will be at the Holiday Inn Northpark Plaza with Col. Ronald C. "Pete" Vines as keynote speaker.

## Friday Events

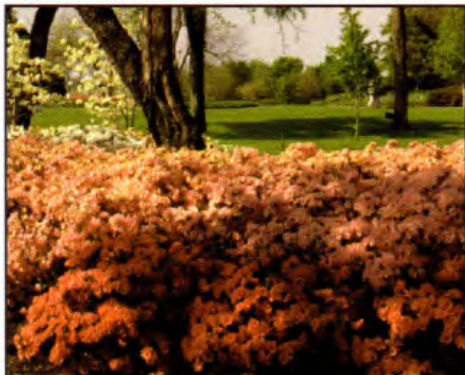
The first stop on Friday will be gardens of The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society (DABS). Lectures are scheduled at the Camp House on the grounds of the Arboretum. Limitations on seating in the Camp House will necessitate alternating seminars and tours. One seminar and tour will be

offered twice in the morning. Two specialized seminars will be offered simultaneously after lunch, one in the dining room and one in the drawing room.

Naud Burnett will lead two consecutive tours of the Jonsson Color Garden. Mr. Burnett's September, 1991, article in **THE AZALEAN** details the early development of gardens at The Dallas Arboretum. The 65-acre grounds consist of two formerly residential estates with mature gardens and specimen trees overlooking a large city park and lake. A master plan for developing the arboretum from this beautiful property was prepared by Jones and Jones Landscape Architects, Seattle. DABS is the site of a 6.5-acre planting of more than 2,000 varieties of azaleas. Designed and built by Naud Burnett and Partners at a cost of three million dollars, the gardens were dedicated in the spring of 1990. The raised azalea planting beds consist of 60% finely milled pine bark and 40% coarse Canadian peat moss with 1-1/2 pounds of Micromax fertilizer per cubic yard. The annual budget for seasonal color is \$400,000. A fog system in the fern dell provides mood and theatrical flair. The borders of perennial phlox are stunning. Within the azalea beds and fern dell are collections of all varieties possible of crape myrtle trees, redbud, dogwood, hardy fern, and ajuga with hundreds of species of other shade and sun loving plants.

Seminars will be given by Mark Wegmann, Pete Vines and Steve Brainerd. Mark Wegmann is an azalea bonsai expert who has been practicing his art locally for a decade. He has addressed the Dallas Chapter of the Azalea Society of America on three previous occasions during chapter meetings. His practical insights are invaluable for anyone interested in the culture of this dramatic plant material. His artistry is to be believed in the presentation of his bonsai

specimens. A cascade style 'Mizuho no kagami' azalea in particular has impressed hundreds of plant enthusiasts. This is a must-see collection for any azalea enthusiast. To be successful in azalea bonsai, plan to attend Mark's seminar on Friday morning.



*Jonsson Color Garden, Dallas  
Arboretum and Botanical Society*



Pete Vines is well known to members of the Azalea Society of America. He was an active hybridizer in the Washington, D.C. area before moving to Amelia Island, Florida, where he has continued his research and production. The Dallas Chapter is privileged to greet Colonel Vines whose work will be submitted for formal registration about the time of the convention. This is a quality hybridizer making a rare appearance to share successes, failures, luck, insight, and his advancing contributions with those delegates who are interested in hybridization and fortunate enough to be able to attend his seminar.

Steve Brainerd is a landscape designer and azalea enthusiast. He

has written several articles on design in recent years for **THE AZALEAN**. His seminar will address form, color, texture and seasonal interest of azalea plantings.

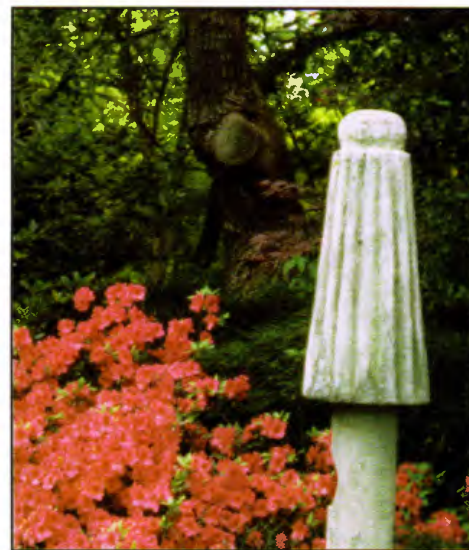
A visit to Texas is not complete without tasting the local barbecue. The Dallas chapter has contracted with an outstanding caterer to fulfill the barbecue experience. Lunch will be served on the Camp House patio overlooking White Rock Lake.

On Friday afternoon the group will, by popular demand, visit a private garden visited during the 1993 national convention. Initial construction was completed in the fall of 1990. This exquisite garden is tended by three full-time gardeners. The site is dominated by a lake with an arched free-span bridge connecting the house to the tennis courts, gazebo, entertainment areas, and additional plantings. Sixty varieties of azaleas that bloom over a three-month period in the spring are complemented by Louisiana phlox, pansies, petunias, tulips, English daisies, and assorted flowering bulbs. Two 30-foot water fountains, white and black swans, and three waterfalls give an idyllic quality to this estate garden in an urban setting.

At the end of the day, buses will return to the Holiday Inn. The atrium bar at the Holiday Inn is a pleasant place to relax. Dinner is not a scheduled event. We will have lectures at the Holiday Inn Northpark Plaza from 6:00 to 7:30PM.

#### **Saturday Events**

Saturday morning we will board buses for a drive through spectacular displays of azaleas in public and private gardens in Highland Park. We will walk through three private gardens. One, a Japanese-style garden, was featured in a PBS Victory Garden program. This is space in which compartmentalization is maximized for function and relaxation. Earth, water, wood, and plant material are the ingredients for garden construction which elicit contemplation, relaxation, and psychological distance from urban Dallas. Delegates will be



*Japanese Garden, Fort Worth*

treated to a spacious stone entry path, a vertical wooden entryway which effectively separates the city from the inner home and garden, the sound and sight of water, the line of architecture, a workshop wall which provides framing for plants, a Zen garden nook, a dry stream bed, a tea house, and a selection of plants based on years of discriminating taste and horticultural understanding. The other two gardens, a formal garden and a cottage garden, were designed and constructed within the last two years by Lambert Gardens, a Dallas-based landscape architecture firm.

After the garden tours, we will have a one hour bus ride to the Ft. Worth stockyards. Lunch will be on your own at any of the restaurants in this restored historic district. We have scheduled an abbreviated walking tour of the area. At 2:00PM we will board the buses and go to the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden to tour the Japanese Garden.

Since 1973 the Japanese Garden has served as a cultural, architectural, and botanical attraction for visitors from near and far. Your journey through this 7.5-acre garden will introduce you to the philosophy of this style of stroll garden. As you walk the paths you will learn of the tranquillity that is achieved through the combination of different plant textures, shades of green, and running water. Enjoy watching and feeding the colorful koi, the Imperial



carp of Japan, at several feeding stations throughout the garden. Exercise your agility in crossing over the seven different styles of bridges that cross dry river beds, quiet pools, and running water. During the fall season, brilliant hues of orange, red, and yellow adorn the Japanese maples and other trees in the garden. Winter is a quiet, restful period in the garden, although beauty can be found in the branch structures of trees, the seed pods and berries of various plants, and the foliage of evergreen plants. Spring bursts forth in the Japanese Garden with the profusion of blossoms from peach, Mexican plum, flowering cherry, crab-apple, and redbud trees. In addition, different colors of azaleas add to the spring floral display in the garden. Throughout the year the Japanese Garden offers a place of tranquil retreat from the pressures of life.

We will return to the Holiday Inn Northpark Plaza in time for a rest, a cash bar social hour and a bonsai exhibit in the atrium prior to the banquet at 7:30PM. Col. Ronald C. "Pete" Vines will be the keynote speaker. A brief business meeting will follow the speaker and will end the 1996 ASA Convention.

The Dallas Chapter cordially invites you to join us March 28-30, 1996. Convenient transportation is available from Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport as well as Love Field (in Dallas). For a free 272-page Texas Travel Guide which will help you plan additional activities by motor vehicle, call 1-800-452-9292. Texas weather, generally quite pleasant in the spring, is characterized by spectacular temperature drops and sudden storms. You may need a raincoat and sweater. We look forward to a spectacular spring, 1996, and hope that you can join us for the seasonal color and social gathering.

**Plan to Attend the  
Annual Meeting and  
Convention  
March 28-30, 1996  
Dallas, Texas**

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## Azaleas at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station

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**Richard T. West**  
*Columbia, Maryland*

**William C. Miller III**  
*Bethesda, Maryland*

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture's old Plant Introduction Station (also called Plant Introduction Garden) is located at Glenn Dale, Maryland, about 16 miles northeast of Washington, D.C. This 70-acre facility was once a major focus in the U.S.D.A. program to locate and acquire new plant material from around the world. Today, the facility houses a part of the National Germplasm Resource Laboratory (NGRL) Quarantine Office, which has the primary responsibility of testing imported plants for the presence of plant pests, including viruses and virus-like organisms (1). It also houses elements of the U.S. National Arboretum.

During the 1930's and 1940's, Benjamin Y. Morrison directed the massive hybridizing program at the Station that resulted in the Glenn Dale azaleas, the 454 hybrids described in U.S.D.A.'s Agriculture Monograph 20 (2). He gathered together at Glenn Dale hundreds of different kinds of azaleas for the program and utilized both greenhouses and an outdoor planting in the azalea test area or azalea woods for hybridizing, growing, selection, and propagation for distribution. Many of the plantings in the azalea woods have remained untouched over the past 50 years or so.

Over the past three years, as a part of our efforts to re-establish the Glenn Dale azaleas, we have investigated the azalea plantings at Glenn Dale and their history. Preliminary surveys indicate that many, perhaps most, of the azaleas acquired for hybridizing—what can be called the Glenn Dale azalea parents—are still in place and can be identified. Some original Glenn Dale azaleas have been located, and a yet unknown additional number of selected but unnamed hybrids are believed also to be present. We recently reported on the status of our Glenn Dale research and preservation activities to the staff at the U.S. National Arboretum, and this article repeats much of what was in the report.

### Background

The Glenn Dale Station consists of various office and maintenance buildings, greenhouses, fields and open lands, and the azalea woods area that comprises some five acres. Morrison described the woods in Monograph 20:

The terrain on which the plants were set is gently rolling. The soil is light, well-drained, and quite dry in the higher parts, to uniformly moist in the lower parts. Typical acid-soil plants of the region grew naturally on the site, which was a rather open wood. Some trees were removed before the planting, but enough were left to provide a thin, high, deciduous shade. Before planting was undertaken, beds were prepared with a liberal application of commercial peat well mixed into the soil, so that an ideal site was given (3).

Hundreds of azaleas were acquired for the Glenn Dale program; some were purchased from large nurseries, such as the Fruitland Nursery of Augusta,