

Several ASA members helped with the event. Don Hyatt presided. Bob Stewart contributed Asian-bred azaleas that every participant took home as a door prize. Also, Bruno and Evelyn Kaelin took the reservations for the dinner. Bruno Kaelin was presented an award for his volunteer efforts. The event attracted many ASA members not only from Northern Virginia, but from Maryland chapters as well—both Brookside and Ben Morrison Chapters.

OCONEE CHAPTER

Ruth Bryan, Secretary

The Oconee Chapter met on September 17, 1995 in Conyers with 24 members present.

David Butler, the president, called the meeting to order and gave the treasurer's report. He mentioned that we really had a good time, despite the heat, at the last two cutting swaps.

Ralph Bullard, Jr., the Vice President, introduced the first speaker, Dr. Charles Owen. Dr. Owen explained his technique for seed propagation. He showed slides of various colors of seedling hybrids that developed from one seed pod. He recommended pruning directly after blooming.

After a refreshment break, Ralph introduced Jeff Beasley, Transplant Nursery, Lavonia, GA. Mr. Beasley showed slides of *R. speciosum*, native to Tray Mountain. He gave a history of these plants and that it takes many years to develop them for commercial sale. He described his method of seed propagation. He gave advice that *R. speciosum* plants would bloom more profusely if they have light, but not hot afternoon sunlight. Ralph and Jeff discussed an idea of a field trip to Tray Mountain, perhaps in the middle of June, next year. David auctioned specimen azaleas that were donated by Jeff Beasley to benefit the Oconee Chapter. Thank you Jeff.

Azalea plants donated by Earl Hester and Jim Harris were set out by Tom Anderson and Jim Thornton at the First Baptist Church in Conyers, where the chapter often meets. What started out as "let's plant a few azaleas around the church" ended up as an azalea garden

donated by the Oconee Chapter in memory of Jimmy Hambrick.

The garden is in front of the administration building and we've already planted a hedge row of Hinos completely around the garden. We've bedded the garden with pine straw and plan to add pine bark mulch later. We plan to install a bench and an "Oconee" native azalea . . . when we can find one of our gracious members to make the donation (hint, hint). Our thanks to all who contributed, and a special thanks to Tom for staying on top of this and preparing the area.

At the December 3, 1995 meeting Jim Thronton discussed the Azalea Convention last spring and showed slides taken at that event and his garden. Ralph Bullard showed slides of gardens in Salem, Oregon, Portland, Oregon, Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He also showed slides of Dr. Charles Owen's garden and of his own garden. Fred Sorg showed slides of his special azaleas. He also donated plants for the church garden. Thank you Fred.

It was suggested that members of this chapter go on tours of the Rhododendron Society, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Calloway Gardens, etc. to help prepare for the Azalea Society of American's Convention. This convention will be hosted by the Oconee Chapter in 1997.

The officers for 1996 are:

President: Earl Hester
Vice President: Ralph Bullard
Treasurer: Fred Vick
Secretary: Ruth Bryan

GLENN DALE PRESERVATION PROJECT

William C. Miller III

The ASA's National Project at the Glenn Dale station is entering its 14th year. In March of last year, the station at Glenn Dale suffered a loss. "Al's House," which was an old, former residence on the station, burned to the ground. Over the years, the two-story house had become a catch-all storage for old files and miscellaneous small equipment. The FBI investigation attributed the fire to the actions of an arsonist. Sadly, historic records dating back some seventy years were lost.

One of the chief goals for 1996 is to renegotiate the USDA permit by which we are granted access to the Glenn Dale station. The existing permit is much outdated and commits the ASA to activities (like maintaining a germplasm collection) that are not achievable under current circumstances and resources. Negotiations with the appropriate parties at the USDA, regarding the terms of the proposed new permit, are ongoing and at some point under current ASA policy, will require review by and approval of the ASA Board of Directors (BOD).

In anticipation of the need for obtaining a new permit and in an effort to streamline matters, I petitioned the ASA BOD at the 1995 National Meeting in May for delegated authority that would allow the chairman of the Glenn Dale project to review and sign a new permit on their behalf. A decision from the BOD on my request for signatory authority, one way or the other, is still pending.

On September 19, 1995, Dick West and I met with Dr. Thomas Elias in his office at the U.S. National Arboretum to discuss future plans. The Arboretum continues to be very supportive of our activities and is seeking new ways to form cooperative efforts with the ASA.

IN MEMORY

Azalea Society of America member Mary Ann G. Thane passed away on September 18, 1995. She is survived by her husband, Society member Frederick L. Thane. She was active in community affairs, garden clubs, and was a charter member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter.

Society member Dr. Arthur Baker died January 9, 1996. His garden contained approximately 1,500 azaleas. He was a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter.

THE APPLICATION FORM
FOR REGISTRATION OF
CULTIVAR NAMES IN GENUS
RHODODENDRON HAS BEEN
SIMPLIFIED AND REVISED. FOR
FORMS AND INFORMATION

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