SOCIETY NEWS

BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER
Dianne Gregg, *President*

At the last meeting at the Brookside Garden's Visitor's Center, Debbie White was chosen to be Publicity Chairman for Chapter events. A memorial for Ryon Page at the Brookside Gardens was also discussed.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER
Joe Klimavicz, President

As most of you know, our Chapter hosted the 1998 Azalea Society of America National Convention at the Holiday Inn, Tysons Corner, April 30-May 3.

All of this was possible due to many months of work by the convention committee. In addition, thanks are owed to several other members—among them Jane Newman, Alice Pearson, Diane Vance, Lee McElvain, and Barry Sperling—for hours of work done during the Convention.

OCONEE CHAPTER
Ruth Bryan, *Secretary*

April 18 was a beautiful spring day and 12 Oconee Chapter members met at and toured the Beasleys' garden and nursery operation in Lavonia. Several large spectacular native species and tree-size rhododendrons were in bloom in the nursery garden. The evergreen azaleas, including 'Ben Morrison' and 'Ambrosia', were blooming in Mary Beasley's back yard where the group had a picnic lunch. As we toured, wish lists were being made to order this fall and plants that could not be waited for were purchased.

Jim Thornton is at it again, with two speaking engagements—one at the Olde Town Pavilion in Conyers, GA on June 6, and another at the Rockdale County Extension Office in Conyers on June 16. Both are on how to propagate azaleas...from layering...to cuttings...to seeds. Giving away all our secrets in hopes of getting a few new members.

Have you given any such talks or been at any such meetings? Let us know, we'll blow your horn also!

New Arboretum in Nacogdoches, Texas

Ground breaking ceremonies for the Stephan F. Austin University Arboretum on the campus in Nacogdoches, Texas took place on May 23, 1998. Society Vice President Bill Bode represented the society. The photograph at the left was taken at the ceremony. In the photograph from left to right are Bill Bode, Barbara Stump, azalea garden coordinator and Dave Creech, Ph.D. who is professor of Agriculture and Director of the Arboretum.

In Memory

With regret we report the death of the following Society members:

Mr. Earl N. Hester, age 69 of Fayetteville, GA, died at home on July 20, after a long illness. He was the youngest son of eight children born to Elmo C. Hester, Sr. and Frances L. Miller of Cuthbert, GA. Mr. Hester left home to attend the University of Georgia at 16, but kept the dawn-to-dusk work habits of his family's farm. For the past ten years, he and his wife Dorothy grew thousands of specialty azaleas and operated Peach State Growers Supply in Fayetteville. A past President of the Oconee Chapter of the Azalea Society of America, his idea of fun was re-potting several hundred azalea cuttings before breakfast. For many years he worked as a salesman for and eventually became the President of Jiffy Products of America, a commercial grower supply business based in West Chicago, Illinois. That job took him on frequent trips throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, the Caribbean and South America.

Mr. Hester graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Horticulture. He served in the U.S. Army's occupational forces in Korea in 1946 and 1947. He joined the Army Reserves (Armor) in Athens, GA, eventually obtaining the rank of Major. He was called back to active duty in 1952 and completed Army Ranger Training at Fort Benning. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Dorothy, two sons, and a daughter, Funeral Service was in July in Athens, GA. We can only say that another stalwart soldier has left our ranks and the Azalea Society of America extends our sympathy to the Hester family. [Excepted from the *Atlanta Constitution* July 21, 1998].

Mr. Fred Galle—information will be provided in the December issue of **THE AZALEAN.**

Mr. Andy Adams, Jr.—information will be provided in the December issue of **THE AZALEAN.**