



The Ames-Haskell Azalea Collection, West Building Rotunda, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Photo used by permission of the Gallery.

Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden Dedication

Sunday, April 9, 2000, Stephen F. Austin State University and the SFA Mast Arboretum officially dedicated the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden at a reception for the garden's major benefactor Mrs. Dorothy Mize Wisely and members of her family. The dedication ceremonies were attended by members of the SFA Board of



Interim SFA President Dr. Roland Smith, Regent Pattye Greer, and Dr. David Creech, Director of the SFA Mast Arboretum, and Azalea Garden Endowment benefactor Dorothy Mize Wisely, at the unveiling of the plaque dedicating the garden to Mrs. Wisely's mother, Ruby May Mize.
Photo by SFA Photographer Hardy Meredith

Regents, representatives from the SFA administration, and about 150 invited guests. The reception was held in the garden under a cloudless and cool spring sky. Mrs. Wisely unveiled a bronze dedicatory plaque mounted on a native East Texas iron ore rock in the garden's focal point, the Council Ring. She especially noted the plaque's inscription, which she feels captures the way her mother felt about gardens:

*With the kiss of the sun for pardon,
 The song of the birds for mirth;
 One is nearer God's heart in a garden
 Than anywhere else on earth.*

Mrs. Wisely thanked all the well-wishers who continue to support the use and growth of the garden, and asked, "Now, isn't this just a little piece of Heaven?" The dedication ceremonies closed with brief tours around the garden.

For more information, contact Dr. David L. Creech, 936-468-4343, or visit the website, www.sfasu.edu/ag/arboretum/azaleagarden.

[Editor's note: The quotation is from poet Dorothy Francis Gurney, 1858-1932.]

Callaway Gardens Opens Garden Center

Until April 17, 2000, plant material seen at Callaway Gardens was only available on site through a once-a-year Plant Sale in March. Now you can buy year-round at their new retail Garden Center, located in the newly renovated Information Center on US Highway 27. This brick-and-mortar-site will also help expand the plant selection already available for purchase at the online retail outlet at www.callawaygardens.com.

Society member Hank Bruno, Trails Manager for Callaway, has been developing the new garden center. Plant material on sale includes: herbs, perennials, shrubs, water garden plants, trees, annual bedding plants, and vines. Among other merchandise featured are garden tools, pots, and books. After-tax proceeds from the Garden Center's sales support the nonprofit Ida Cason Callaway Foundation, owner of Callaway Gardens.

For more information, contact the website listed, or telephone 1-800-Callaway (1-800-225-5292).