

Society News

Highlights of the Board of Directors Meetings and Annual Meeting in Bowie, Maryland

John Brown — Secretary

At meetings held May 6 and 9, 2004, the board authorized the Azalea City Program, under the direction of past-president Joe Schild, to recognize municipalities which promote an appreciation of azaleas through tours, festivals, and public attention. See Joe for details, which are also listed on the www.azaleas.org Web site and in the following article in this issue.

The board has selected North Carolina State University as the repository for the Society Archives. That project is underway. See article in *The Azalean* [26(2): 42] for more information.

Barry Sperling has been selected to head the Membership Committee. He will be working with Tom Milner and Ron Hooper. A committee reported on a review of the work of the editor. Other items held over for further discussion were potential new chapters and the status of the Dallas Chapter.

At the May 6 meeting president Buddy Lee thanked Don Voss and Margie Jenkins for their service, since they were leaving the board.

It was announced at the May 8 annual meeting that Tom Milner, Ron Hooper, and Bob Hobbs had

been elected to the board for three-year terms. The By-laws change to add the Society's secretary to the executive committee was accepted by the membership. Then Buddy Lee was awarded the Best Article in *The Azalean*, and Lake Michigan Chapter president John Migas presented preliminary information on Holland, Michigan, the location of the 2005 ASA convention (May 19-22, 2005) and the local Tulip Festival, inviting all to attend. After the meeting, William C. Miller III gave the keynote speech "Ben Morrison and His Azaleas."

Azalea City Program — Help Needed

Joseph E. Schild, Jr. — Chairman

Yes, the Azalea City program committee needs your help in locating and contacting municipalities that deserve the recognition of the Azalea Society of America for their continuing efforts in promoting azaleas as worthy landscape shrubs within their boundaries. This may be through celebrations, official proclamations, garden tours, and the use of azaleas in the public and private landscape.

As members of chapters or at large, each of you perhaps knows of a city that fits the above description and may be able to assist them in completing an application. As you may know, all the information is posted to the ASA Web site for easy access and downloading. If, however,

the town you live in does not know about it, then you are our ambassador and can assist them or supply the appropriate municipal officials with contact information to make the opportunity available to them.

If any member does not have online connection to access the ASA Web site, please contact me by telephone or mail, and I will make sure you or the city contact person receives all the necessary forms and guidelines. A number of news releases have been sent out to various publications, but the personal contact of members most certainly carries more weight and influence.

The committee is pleased to announce the awarding of the first recognition as an "ASA Azalea City" to Nacogdoches, Texas. They supplied the committee with overwhelming proof of an excellent and on-going program in the municipality for celebrating and using azaleas in the public and private landscape. We hope this will lead many more municipalities to follow in their path to excellence.

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