

Society News

Frederic P. Lee Commendation Award for 2004

Mary Rutley (left), Brookside Gardens Chapter vice president, presented the chapter's 2004 Frederic P. Lee Commendation to Dorothy W. (Dottie) Murphree (right) at the regular chapter meeting on February 6, 2005, at the Brookside Gardens Educational Center in Wheaton, Maryland. A long-time member of the ASA from Takoma Park, Maryland, Dottie has served as chapter treasurer since 1989. *(Photo by William C. Miller III)*



Membership Memorandum

Barry Sperling — ASA Membership Chairman

One of the things that I looked forward to when joining the Northern Virginia Chapter was the opportunity to see the gardens of others. I could get ideas for landscaping, find varieties that I didn't know about, and meet lots of similarly minded people. Of course, one of the problems in spring is that at this peak time of year our own gardens are calling. After a year of cultivation, planting and transplanting, we finally get to see the results of our labors and get ideas for the coming year. And, especially for those of who still do the 9-5, the precious little time available in our own backyards is something that is hard to part with.

Is there a solution? No, sorry.

Still with me? One possibility that might mitigate the problems would be to have pictures of all of our members' gardens. With the easy availability of digital cameras and computers, many members already keep such photographic documentation. My own pictures look great filling the computer monitor (better than prints), and I bet everybody else can say the same.

So, my suggestion would be to collect pictures that chapter members have taken of their gardens and burn them to a single CD, one garden per folder. Copies of these CDs could be given to each member, whether they were able to contribute or not, and all could enjoy everybody's gardens. Maybe plans could be made to drop by an especially great looking garden, ask about a certain plant, and get to know the others in the chapter, stimulating connections.

While we all would like to have more members at the meetings, we also need a reason to continue to be a member, to come to meetings, or even to join in the first place. One reason to stay a member would be to receive those CDs of members' gardens every year. The cost would be nominal and only take the effort to make and copy them.

Let's keep the members that we have by giving them a reason to stay!