

Society News

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter

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Chapter members graciously opened their gardens to tours through May and June, showing the wide geographic area this chapter covers: Boxlee Azalea Farm (Courtland Lee in Glenn Dale), Rosa Gardens (**Bob and Rosa McWhorter** in Gambrills), Baldwin Gardens (**Pam Baldwin** in Calvert County), Wake Robin (**Joe Miller** in St. Mary's County), the Hobbs garden (**Bob and Bee Hobbs** in North Beach), and the Holmes garden (**Dave and Eileen Holmes** in Prince Frederick).

Don Hyatt helped organize a field trip to Roan Mountain and Gregory Bald June 12-17, a joint activity with the Northern Virginia Chapter. Roan Mountain is on the border of North Carolina and Tennessee. The trip included hiking the Appalachian Trail in the Roan Highlands and exploration of the upper Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina, then proceeded south to the Smokies to go to Wayah Bald to see *Rhododendron arborescens* in bloom and hike up Gregory Bald. Finally, a visit to Vivian Abney's East Fork Nursery allowed members a chance to purchase native azaleas.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Frances Louer, Newsletter Editor
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At the April 3 meeting the members agreed to honor the request of the Alabamense Chapter to take the Northern Virginia Chapter's place in hosting the 2008 convention. **Barry Sperling** gave each attendee a copy of his new DVD titled "Gardens of Northern Virginia." The speaker was Jacqueline McGrail of the Potomac Valley Camellia Society. She distributed pamphlets showing the flower forms and shrub habits of this tea relative and showed slides of hardy varieties that would be attractive in local azalea collections. Many of the slides were Ackerman hybrids that bloom in the fall when azalea bloom is scarce. Among the spring-blooming varieties was one named for Jerry Hill, whose local nurseries also featured azaleas.

Sunday, July 10, the chapter held its annual cutting exchange at the home of **Dave and Sharon Raden**. This is the 19th cuttings exchange held by the chapter. Chapter president **Dan Krabill** reminded members that the best success in rooting these cuttings appears to come from cuttings taken in the morning from plants that had been rained on or watered recently. Small plants such as members' extra rooted cuttings were also welcome.

Oconee Chapter

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor
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The June 12 meeting featured ASA member **Dan Krabill** speaking on "Meeting the Glenn Dales" and his large collection of digital images of them. He has saved these to CD disk format. June 18 chapter members and their friends were invited to take cuttings of Glenn Dales at the home of **Ben Reid**. Also June 18 the Oconee Chapter of ASA jointly sponsored a cutting party with the Azalea Chapter of the ARS at the home of **Joe and Donna Coleman**.

Tri-State Chapter

Larry Miller, reporting
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The chapter has reorganized and elected new officers, who are:

Larry Miller, president
Beverly Knight, secretary/treasurer
Debbie Bizal, vice-president

Through the development of the Fred Sievers Memorial Garden (see p. 36), the Friends of Fred Sievers group learned about the Azalea Society of America and some became members of the Tri-State Chapter, helping to rejuvenate the chapter.

In addition, the chapter held their annual garden tour on April 24th, with visits to the extraordinary gardens of **Art Schroeder, Lloyd Hahn, Fred Sievers, and Jean and Ken Brown** among others.

Upcoming Events — Independent Plant Breeder's Conference

Program Organizer Dr. Rick Schoellhorn, faculty member of the Environmental Horticulture Department at the University of Florida (UF), Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) has announced an Independent Plant Breeder's Conference to be held November 18-20, 2005 at the Ft. Lauderdale Marriott North in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

The goal of this program is to inform independent plant breeders about how to bring their hybrids to market *successfully*. Independent plant breeders who attend this program will:

- Learn how to improve their hybrids.
- Learn where to find the best deals for the release of their hybrids.
- Learn about the realities of plant patenting.
- Have opportunities to network directly with national and international plant breeder industries sponsoring this event.

- Learn the advantages of working with horticultural distributors.
- Have an opportunity to show photos of their hybrids at the Breeder Showcase and Reception.

The IFAS mission is to extend education about agriculture and natural resources. For more information on the conference, contact Mandy Stage or visit the Web site for details about the conference. <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ipbc/>

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