

Society News

Chapter News

Louisiana Chapter

The chapter has been actively involved in the Garden Party honoring **Ms. Margie Jenkins** and the dedication of a new azalea garden in her honor at the LSU AgCenter in Hammond, Louisiana. (See article on p. 59)

Northern Virginia Chapter

Frances Louer, Corresponding Secretary

The chapter held their annual cutting exchange on July 9th at the home of **Eve and Bob Harrison** in Luray, Virginia. President **Dan Krabill** promoted this activity to all chapter members as a way to gain new plants, especially the hard-to-come-by ones.

The annual plant auction was held on August 27th at Phran's Azalea Trails (home of the **Philip Louers**) in Haymarket, Virginia.

Oconee Chapter

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor

Buddy Lee, President of the ASA, visited the chapter meeting held August 13th to help members prepare for fall collection and propagation of Oconee azaleas (*Rhododendron flammeum*). While Buddy was there he updated the members on current issues and the future of the ASA.

Vaseyi Chapter

John Brown, Secretary Reporting

Dr. Joe Coleman brought us a tiny part of his knowledge and enthusiasm on Sunday September 24 with his talk, "Dependably Old and Excitingly New: Kurume Azaleas." He covered the oldest of the hybrid evergreen groups, going from their introduction during the Pacific Exposition at the start of the last century through the introductions by Wilson; importation by the Domotos and Stevenson of several groups; then all the way up to the newest exploration by Dr. John Creech and the latest introductions by the US National Arboretum. Joe's slides covered all the color combinations available.

Joe is currently serving as a member of the ASA board of directors and has been a member of the Society since its second year of existence when George Harding introduced him to the group.

The chapter's board met August 24 to set up the schedule for the meetings for 2007.

In Memory

Walter Galloway Burch

H. M. "Fuzzy" Perritt reported that Alabamense Chapter member **Walter Galloway Burch** died June 4, 2006, at age 79. He said:

"Walt lived across the creek from me and was noted for his wildlife photography. He has thousands of pictures of everything from Alaskan Brown Bear to hummingbirds and from wildflowers to magnificent forest and mountain scenes. I did the eulogy at his funeral and it was a tough challenge. Walt is really going to be missed up this way."

Dr. Ben Reid

Jim Thornton of the Oconee Chapter reports with sadness:

"**Dr. Ben Reid** passed away July 1, 2006, at the age of 81, at his home, after a battle with leukemia. Ben was a long-time member of the ASA and the Oconee Chapter. He was a retired military man, a retired educator, and a retired azaleaphile. He and his wife Lina owned and operated Reid's Azalea Farm, where they raised, sold, and collected thousands of azaleas, with hundreds of varieties for landscaping and propagation purposes. Their garden was always open to the public; and, on more than one occasion, the Oconee Chapter held their annual "cutting party" at their place. He was always willing to share his "secrets." He will surely be missed!"

Helen Schroeder

Larry Miller of the Tri-State Chapter reported that **Helen Schroeder** of Evansville, Indiana, age 81, died September 20, 2006. She was Tri-State Chapter's original secretary. Her husband, **Dr. Henry R. Schroeder, Jr.** was a well-known Evansville hybridizer of cold-tolerant azaleas, and he named one of his compact, very double purplish pink hybrids 'Mrs. Henry Schroeder' for her.

George William Wood, Jr.

Bob Kelly of the Alabamense Chapter reported that **George William Wood, Jr.** of Northport, Alabama, age 87, died July 17, 2006 at home.

Mr. Wood was a highly decorated World War II veteran. He was the founder of the Alabama Wildflower Society and editor of their newsletter and was associated with the Tanglewood Arboretum at the University of Alabama. He was the forester for the University of Alabama from 1959 to 1987.

Bob Stelloh contributed that he had also noticed that Mr. Wood had bought gift memberships for a number of our members, including **Caroline Dean** who is a friend of Bob's and, it turns out, was a really good friend of George. She has a strong interest in wildflowers as well as azaleas and lives in Opelika, Alabama.

Hammond Research Station to Establish New Azalea Garden Honoring Margie Y. Jenkins

Friends of Margie Y. Jenkins hosted a Garden Party to honor the lifetime contributions of "Ms. Margie" during the year of her 85th birthday. Monies raised from the party will be used for the establishment and maintenance of the Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden. Ms. Margie is nationally known as a long-time azalea lover, breeder, and authority.

The Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden will be established on a five-acre site under mature pines at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station, Hammond, Louisiana. This major azalea collection will provide a garden where the consumer and professional can view and learn about plant types and habits; flower colors, sizes, and forms; and bloom seasons and lengths for different azalea species and cultivars. Also to be included in this educational garden will be a Japanese maple collection and native understory shrubs and trees.

"I viewed the Garden Party as an opportunity to celebrate the many contributions this dynamic woman has made to horticulture, the Green Industry, and to the personal development and education of so many horticulturists," says Regina P. Bracy, Resident Coordinator of the Hammond Research Station. "With the establishment of the Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden, we will have a continuing feature in the Landscape Horticulture Research and Extension Center that will educate people about azaleas, much as Ms. Margie has done during her lifetime."

The Garden Party was held at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station on October 26, 2006, at 4:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to contribute to the establishment and maintenance of the Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden may contact Regina P. Bracy at 985-543-4125 or rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu, or may send checks made out to LSU Ag Center to:

Hammond Research Station
21549 Old Covington Hwy.
Hammond, LA 70403

Announcing the New Editor of The Azalean

Pam Fitch of Lubbock, Texas, was recently named Editor of *The Azalean* by the board of directors. She takes over her duties with publication of the Winter 2006 issue.

A native of Bossier City, Louisiana, Fitch earned a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from Stephen F. Austin State University. She previously served as Executive Director of the Nacogdoches Convention and Visitors Bureau in Nacogdoches, Texas. In this position, she helped create the nationally recognized Nacogdoches Azalea Trail to promote tourism to the community. The three-week event held annually in late March attracts thousands of visitors each year.



The centerpiece of the trail is the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden located on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University. The garden is the largest of its kind in Texas and features more than 525 varieties of azaleas.

In 2004, under Fitch's leadership, Nacogdoches successfully applied for designation as an "Azalea City" by the Azalea Society of America. It was the first time the designation had been bestowed on a community. Fitch has also been involved in planning the 2007 Azalea Society of America's annual convention that will be held March 29 to April 1 in Nacogdoches.

New Editorial Contact Information

Pam Fitch, Editor
The Azalean
10006 Homestead Avenue
Lubbock, TX 79424
806-281-8700
E-mail: pamfitch@myway.com

New Members

The Society welcomes the following members who joined the Society as of October 8, 2006. We also especially welcome the garden writers who we hope will contribute to *The Azalean* from time to time.

Dallas Chapter

Ina Brundrett
7015 Paluxy Drive
Tyler, TX 75703-5936903-
561-2014
inaprb@aol.com

Sharrie Buck
205 Shasta Drive
Houston, TX 77024
Naud Burnett
5217 McKinney Ave, Ste 202
Dallas, TX 75205

Nancy R. Gordon
10915 Kirwick
Houston, TX 77024
Betty T. Hellmann
106 Broad Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77056
713-622-3750

Myra W. (Mrs. A. Clark)
Johnson
3439 Del Monte Drive
Houston, TX 77019-3115
713-524-9316