

Plant Sale

Speaking of plants, we will have a collection of various sizes of deciduous azaleas, some new plants from Buddy Lee, and possibly even some camellias from the Louisiana Chapter. As soon as we have a listing of likely offerings, we will post them on the convention Web page. Since the SFA Mast Arboretum spring plant sale fund-raiser is being held April 14, there is no space for propagating our own azaleas, so we are relying on friends and local commercial sources. A few of the choice offerings from the Arboretum sale may be in the plant auction after the annual meeting, however. A few will be offered in *Dr. Creech's plant raffle* Thursday night. Keep your eyes open.

Note that on the convention schedule, *open hours for the plant sale are limited*. When the convention participants are on a bus, the plant sale will be closed. This is to save our volunteers' time and energy. However, there will be plenty of time Saturday afternoon for purchasing plants.

Annual Meeting, Banquet, Plant Auction

Saturday evening festivities will include all the required elements and as much fun as we can pack in!

Contact Info (More listed on Insert)

Convention Web Site (with links to more information on the gardens listed above.):
www.nacogdochesazaleas.com

SFA Mast Arboretum
Agriculture Building
PO Box 13000, Wilson Drive
Nacogdoches, TX 75962
<http://arboretum.sfasu.edu/>

Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden
<http://azalea.sfasu.edu/>

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail
Used by Native Americans, then French and Spanish explorers, this trail follows Highway 6 in Louisiana and Highway 21 in Texas, and became a main highway through Nacogdoches and then on to San Antonio and Mexico City.
<http://www.elcaminorealtx.com/>

Tyler Children's Garden
For photos, see <http://www.pbbase.com/mrd/>
For background on the foundation, visit
<http://www.childrenareagift.com/childrenspark.html>

Barbara Stump was awarded her MS in Agriculture for "Site Analysis and Design of the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden" in 2001. She continues to work part-time for the SFA Mast Arboretum, coordinating improvements to the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden and in general development projects for the Arboretum. She has been the editor for The Azalean since 1999, and now plans to devote all her energies to getting the gardens ready for the ASA Convention in March.

Convention Speakers

All of our speakers are talented horticulturists who enthusiastically "spread the word" about the richness of the plant world and the satisfaction to be gained from gardening. They also represent the continuing legacy that we as gardeners nurture every day.

Thursday Night, March 29

Dr. David Creech, "The SFA Mast Arboretum-Diversity Includes Azaleas." Dr. Creech, director of the Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) Mast Arboretum and Regents Professor of Horticulture at SFA, will welcome us with an overview of the diversity of plants that grow in the East Texas Pineywoods and in the SFA Mast Arboretum.

Since coming to SFA and Nacogdoches in 1978, Dr. Creech's research and development history can best be described as diverse and busy. Trained in fruit and vegetables, most of his early career at SFA focused solely in that arena, and he still continues that interest with blueberry germplasm research with the USDA Agriculture Research Station in Poplarville, Mississippi. In 1985 he began to develop the Arboretum, which opened up

avenues for research with new ornamentals. Much of that work has involved evaluating new plant materials for Southern landscapes. He was president of the Texas Native Plant Society from 1991 to 1992. During this time he initiated the Arboretum's "Three Rs Program" ("Rescue, Research, and Reintroduction") to thoroughly research endangered Texas species. In 1998 these endangered plant trials were moved to the SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center, now the Arboretum's fourth big garden project. In the same year he began work on what has become the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. He has been very active in promoting practical experience for his students through the American Society of Horticulture Science competitions. Most recently he has been working with Chinese colleagues in the US and in China on *Taxodium*, blueberries, and pharmaceutical potentials of other plants, including *Camptotheca acuminata* and the ferns of the Hardy Fern Foundation.

Greg Grant, "East Texas Yard Art-Historic and Modern." Greg will regale us with a humorous overview of "garden architecture" made from old or found objects while intro-