

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.
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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

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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.

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