

ducing some of the typical plant material we will be seeing on our travels to Tyler on Friday.

Greg is a horticulturist with the SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center. He is co-author of *Home Landscaping-Texas* (2004) and *The Southern Heirloom Garden* (1995), and is a frequent contributor to *Texas Gardener*, *Ornamental Outlook*, and *Neil Sperry's Gardens*. He has worked for two other botanic gardens: Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens in Houston, and San Antonio Botanic Garden. His current assignment at the SFA PNPC allows him to garden with some of the native plants he first learned to love in nearby Arcadia, Texas.

Following Greg's talk we will hold a **Rare Plant Raffle**—This is an SFA Mast Arboretum stand-by; the rare plants come from Dr. Creech's Arboretum Shade House. Be sure to get a ticket at the door!

Friday Night, March 30

Robert (Buddy) Lee, "Azalea Revivals—The Rising Tide." Buddy will discuss many of the strains of azaleas that he has enjoyed, evaluated, and used in his long experience with breeding azaleas. He will also discuss some of the goals of his breeding work and may introduce some new azaleas.

Buddy is the president of the Azalea Society of America (2003 to 2007). He has been a member of the Louisiana chapter of the ASA since 1983, serving as president of the chapter from 1990-1992. A true promoter of the azalea, he coordinated two national conventions for the ASA, one in New Orleans (1991) and the other in Charleston, South Carolina (2000). From 1973 through 1986, he owned and operated Savannah Spring Nursery, a wholesale plant nursery specializing in container-grown azaleas. During this period he developed the multi-season-blooming Encore® Azaleas now marketed through Plant Development Services (PDSI) in Loxley, Alabama. The Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association recognized his significant contribution to the industry by awarding him a Professional Achievement Award, presented during the Gulf States Horticultural Expo in Mobile, Alabama, in 2000. He is presently active in the development and testing of new azalea varieties through Transcend Nursery in Independence, Louisiana. He is also a tireless promoter of the Society, speaking at many nursery and garden shows, from which he has gained the Society an impressive list of new members.

Len Miller, "Symbolism in the Japanese Garden." Drawing on his travel and gardening experiences, Len will show how important Japanese maples and Japanese garden design have been as complements to azaleas in our gardens. In particular, he will emphasize how Japanese garden design uses the shapes of plants and topographic features in a symbolic way to create desired effects.

The Stephen F. Austin State University

Mast Arboretum

The SFA Mast Arboretum is a project of the Horticulture program within the Agriculture Department of the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture. Our mission is four-fold:

1. Promote the conservation, selection, and use of native Texas plants
2. Acquire, evaluate, and promote new and adapted landscape plant materials, thus encouraging plant diversity in the landscape
3. Act as a living laboratory for SFA students and faculty as well as the nursery and landscape industries
4. Act as an aesthetic and educational environment for students, visitors, and local citizens

The Arboretum began as a project of one of Dr. David L. Creech's plant materials courses in 1985. He realized that ornamental horticulture was going to be an area of great growth in the coming years, and he had his students plant an evaluation set of junipers just south of the Agriculture Building on campus. Under his enthusiastic leadership, that tiny area—the size of a small residential backyard—has grown to 58 acres on the campus of SFA, with a 118-acre conservation easement for native plant research just west of Nacogdoches. The four gardens on campus all exhibit species diversity:

- **Arboretum**—11 acres filled with over 10,000 taxa and 15 theme gardens. We have received donated material from nurserymen across the South as well as a wonderful collection of Kurume and other evergreen azaleas from the US National Arboretum. Our collections run the gamut of Texas-adapted plant material, much of it new introductions from Southeast Asia, China, and Japan.
- **Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden**—eight acres of over 8,500 plants, primarily azaleas (both evergreen and deciduous, 525 named cultivars from 52 hybrid groups, including species), but also including large collections (of over 200 cultivars each) of Japanese maples, *Camellia* (*sasanqua* and *japonica*), *Hydrangea*, and *Cephalotaxus*. Major construction began in 1998 and was essentially complete in 2002, but we continue to add features and plant collections.
- **Jim and Beth Kingham Children's Garden**—a portion of the Arboretum where a 'green classroom' Timber-framers Pavilion and butterfly and hummingbird garden were developed in 1998-1999.
- **SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center**—a 39-acre natural woodland within the City of Nacogdoches and on the northern side of the SFA campus. While our "Three R's" Endangered Plant Research Program began at the Arboretum in 1996, it was moved to the PNPC location when development of this site began. Dedicated in 2000, this garden also contains the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Demonstration Garden, one of only three in the US associated with the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. Every other year, the PNPC also hosts the Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference. Each year, our