

# Chapter News

## Ben Morrison Chapter

*Bob Hobbs, Newsletter Editor*

**Bob McWhorter** presented a slide show of his trip to New England at the October chapter meeting. Bob is a good flower photographer. He and his wife, Rosa, have a large azalea and rhododendron garden in Gambrills, Maryland. Bob is past president of the Ben Morrison Chapter.

## Dallas Chapter

*Submitted by Robert Lee*

A productive meeting of the Dallas Chapter (Texas Chapter) was held on October 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Forum of Civics Building of the River Oaks Garden Club in Houston. A new slate of officers was elected. **Bart Brechter** of Houston will be the new president. Dates and locations were tentatively set for future meetings which would encompass the greater East Texas area.

For additional information or if you have comments, please contact Bart Brechter at [bbrechter@mfah.org](mailto:bbrechter@mfah.org).



▲ The Dallas Chapter (Texas Chapter) recently met in Houston. Pictured are Bart Brechter, president; Buddy Lee, ASA president; Barbara Stump, treasurer; Bill Bode; and Mike Stump.

## Louisiana Chapter

*Bill Bode, President*

The Louisiana Chapter held its fall meeting at the Hammond Research Station on October 1. Chapter president **Bill Bode** announced that the Louisiana Chapter was now the largest ASA chapter with 110 members due to the largess of **Buddy Lee**, ASA president. Routine business followed.

**Dr. Regina Bracy** gave a presentation on the ceremony and festivity of the dedication of the "Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden." She emphasized the wide scope and variety of organizations contributing to the establishment of this garden.

ASA President **Buddy Lee** gave an overview of the activities of the ASA and discussed the possible participation of the chapter in the upcoming annual meeting.

Discussion of various cultivar groups' resistance to storm damage followed. A Nominating Committee was named to consider officers for 2007. The committee was also tasked with developing plans for the chapter's annual meeting.

## Northern Virginia Chapter

*Frances Louer, Corresponding Secretary*

The chapter's annual azalea plant auction was held at Phran's Azalea Trails, the gardens of **Frances and Phil Louer**, on August 29. **Bob Harrison** served as auctioneer.

**Karen Rexrode**, formerly the manager of Windy Hill Plant Farm, was the speaker at the September meeting. She shared information about plants to keep a garden exciting through deer attacks, humid summers, dry spells, soggy springs, and insect infestations.

Members also elected the following chapter offices: **Eve Harrison**, president; **Barry Sperling**, vice president; **Jane Newman**, secretary; and **David Nanney**, treasurer.

## Oconee Chapter

*Ruth Mellon, Secretary*

**Buddy Lee**, president of ASA and creator of the Encore azaleas, was the main speaker at the August chapter meeting. He discussed techniques on hybridizing azaleas and showed pictures from his collection. Also discussed were ways to recruit new members for the Azalea Society.

He expects azaleas and rhododendron to become more in fashion in the future. One concern discussed was how to get more people with smaller yards to become interested in azaleas in their landscapes.

**Buddy** also distributed copies of the new ASA brochure, and he complimented **Jim Thornton** on his creation of the Oconee Chapter business card.

## Vaseyi Chapter

*John Brown, Newsletter Editor*

In October the Vaseyi Chapter held its annual seed exchange and roundtable discussion on propagation from seed. **Ed Collins** demonstrated his method of cracking off the end of the seed capsule and extracting seed.

**Ray Head** and **Aaron Cook** contributed their knowledge about timing and ripeness. A table full of seed was shared, and some went to the new ASA seed exchange which Aaron briefly discussed. The forms and instructions are on the ASA web site [www.azaleas.org](http://www.azaleas.org). Currently, the students in one of Aaron's propagation class are refining and packaging seed for distribution.