

and **Barbara Bloodworth**, and **Frank Bryan** assisted at the table. **Al Penland** and **Joe Coleman** helped with the set up.

On October 21, seed pods of *Rhododendron flammeum* and *R. prunifolium* were collected at **Joan Adcock's** garden in Newnan. Fourteen members participated. Seed pod collection was easy because hundreds of plants had them. It was done without fatiguing climbs up and down hills and mountains and/or trekking along and off woodland trails. Just turn left and pick and turn right and pick and take a step or two and continue gathering.

Many of the shrubs had labels or ribbons that indicated flower color, form, or an impressive bloomer, which is better than collecting seeds from plants at random or making an advance trip during bloom time to make selections. Additionally, Joan guided many people to her favorites or to shrubs having colors of interest.

The variety of plants and the variety of flower colors and forms within such a small area was amazing. Most of those present departed with dozens of envelopes containing seed pods from different plants. They probably left with enough seeds to repopulate the region with Oconee azaleas, assuming all seeds germinated, seedlings survived, and the resulting plants were planted. After all the picking, one could not distinguish a significant reduction of seedpods from the masses of shrubs.

Texas Chapter

Barbara Stump, Treasurer

Efforts to reorganize the former Dallas chapter into a Texas Chapter are continuing. The reorganization needs to be reviewed by the ASA board of directors at the annual meeting in Nacogdoches.

In the meantime, new chapter president **Bart Brechter** is leading an effort to find unique local azaleas for the 2007 convention plant sale. All proceeds from the annual plant auction will benefit the new Texas Chapter.

There is still time to register for the convention which will be held in East Texas. Tours will include sites in Nacogdoches and Tyler. On the Internet visit www.nacogdochesazaleas.com to view the schedule of events and download a registration form.

Vaseyi Chapter

John Brown, Newsletter Editor

The annual meeting and covered dish luncheon was held on November 12 attended by 25 members and guests. Officers were elected to two-year terms as follows: **Doley Bell**, president; **Jackson McCarter**, vice president; **John Brown**, secretary; **Bob Stelloh**, treasurer; **Leon Pace**, director 2006-08; and **Dwayne Clayburn**, director 2006-08. Note that the Directors for 2005-07 are **Ken Majer** and **Vivian Abney**. **Ed Collins** remains on the board as Past President.

The covered dish luncheon was a huge success. Three tables needed serious support to hold all the food brought mainly by the attendees. In addition, the main course was

catered barbecue. I should have taken notes on who brought what, but I could not stop eating long enough to write it all down. It was suggested that the by-laws be amended to insist that Glen be ordered to bring his cheesecake to all functions, but then there was the sweet potato pie, the beans salads, the slaws, baked and other beans, deviled eggs, and desserts galore. The group voted to make the covered dish event a regular part of our schedule.

During the course of the afternoon, the chapter obtained a new joint membership: **Jeanette** and **Bob Cannon** of Laurel Park. We welcome them and hope that they enjoy their membership as much as we enjoy having them.

In Memory

James Parker Holmes

November 6, 1940 – January 7, 2007

James "Jim" Parker Holmes of Flat Rock, North Carolina, passed away at the Elizabeth House in Hendersonville on Sunday morning, January 7 after a lengthy illness. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, on November 6, 1940 to Parker Manfred Holmes and Dorothy Thomas Holmes.

Jim retired to Flat Rock in June 2000, after living in both Ridgewood and Chester, New Jersey for 28 years. His career in finance and investments spanned 37 years. Jim received a Bachelor of Science in finance from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1962 and a Master of Business Administration in finance from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, in 1963.

For the last 30 years, Jim focused and devoted his spare time to the field of horticulture. He was a member of the Vaseyi Chapter of the Azalea Society of America, and chaired the committee that created the August Kehr Memorial Garden as a joint project of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society and the Vaseyi Chapter.

In addition, he was a Master Gardener and the President of the Skylands Association for the Skylands Botanical Gardens in Ringwood, NJ. His love of plants included membership in the American Rhododendron Society, American Rock Garden Society, Conifer Society and the American Orchid Society. He was an active supporter of the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, NC.

Jim is survived by his wife, **Barbara Marshall Holmes** of Flat Rock; mother, **Dorothy Holmes** of Leesburg, Virginia; sisters, **Anita Mahood** and husband, **James** of Leesburg, Virginia; and **Jeannette Holmes** of Sacramento, California.

Their only child, **Elizabeth Katherine Holmes**, preceded him in death in 2003.

The family would appreciate memorial contributions to the North Carolina Arboretum Society, 100 Frederick Law Olmstead Way, Attn: Winnie Fisher, referencing the James P. Holmes Memorial Fund, Asheville, NC 28715, ph. 828-665-2492.