

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter

Bob Hobbs, Newsletter Editor

The chapter recently established a planning committee and a membership task force. Both groups will meet periodically to plan and schedule events for the chapter and also develop ideas to increase membership.

Ms. Carole Bordelon, curator of the camellia collection at the U.S. National Arboretum, was the guest speaker at the chapter's March meeting which was held at the Annapolis Library.

Ms. Bordelon provided an interesting, informative and highly visual presentation on the camellia collection at the National Arboretum.

Louisiana Chapter

Allen Owings, President

The Louisiana chapter was well represented at the ASA national convention in Texas. A good group of about 25 members attended. We are proud of the efforts of **Buddy Lee** for leading the national organization over the last four years. Thank you Buddy!

Congratulations to **Margie Jenkins**, our current chapter treasurer and long-time member, on being named an ASA Distinguished Service Award winner for 2007.

Our spring-quarter meeting was held March 21 at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station in Hammond. Members and guests enjoyed a catfish dinner with all the trimmings and heard a presentation from **Richard Odom**, owner of Country Pines Nursery in Forest Hill, Louisiana, on the development and release of his "Crimson" series azaleas.

"Crimson" azaleas were introduced in 2004 and are vegetative sports developed from 'Red Formosum'. 'Crimson Majesty' is the largest of the series and will mature at a height of 5-8 feet. The mid-sized variety in the series is 'Crimson Queen' (3 feet by 3 feet), and the most dwarf form is 'Crimson Princess' (2 feet by 2 feet). The unique characteristic of these plants is foliage coloration. Leaves are crimson on the upper and lower sides. Some fading of the crimson color may be seen on the lower and older foliage as aging occurs. The "Crimson" series of azaleas is patented.

Our spring crawfish boil was held Sunday, May 6 at **Jim Campbell's** home. We always appreciate his hospitality.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Eve Harrison, President

In December, the chapter met for a social observance of the holiday season at the home of **Dave** and **Leslie Nanney** in West Springfield. There was plenty of food and fellowship. One of the great features of an azalea chapter

is the sharing of experiences with members. This was the perfect opportunity to accomplish that objective.

Don Hyatt demonstrated how to make a music video using photos of flowers at the February chapter meeting. The process was not too difficult or technical. Don used Windows Movie Maker software and demonstrated how to transfer video from a camcorder to a computer. He also explained how to use the software to edit movie segments.

Chapter members are also developing plans for a tour to several local azalea gardens in late April or early May.

Oconee Chapter

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor

In January, some members of the Oconee Azalea Society Chapter met with the ARS to hear **Mike Creel** of Lexington, South Carolina, speak on the *Creel Way of Propagating* azaleas and other plants. The session on simple and inexpensive ways to propagate plants was very informative and interesting, and it lasted for more than three hours.

At the February chapter meeting, **Joe Coleman** showed slides from the 2006 ASA convention in Rockville, Maryland. **Don Bloodworth** displayed examples of dome pots and hanging baskets modeled after the Creel Way of propagation, and he led a discussion about Creel's propagation methods. **Jim Thornton** described his technique of killing weedy vines (as printed in the Spring 2007 issue of *The Azalean*).

Texas Chapter

Barbara Stump, Treasurer

The ASA Board formally approved the chapter's name change in March. Formerly known as the Dallas Chapter, members initiated a reorganization in 2006 which included re-naming it as the Texas Chapter. Chapter officers are: **Bart Brechter**, president; **JoAnn Smith**, vice president; **Vicki Lange**, secretary; and **Barbara Stump**, treasurer.

Tri-State Chapter

Larry Miller, President

The ASA Board of Directors voted unanimously to hold its 2010 annual convention in Evansville, Indiana.

Last year the Tri-State Chapter hosted a delegation from the Lake Michigan Chapter and organized a tour which included the new Fred Sievers Garden at Sunrise Park, the Preservation area, the former Holly Hills Nursery, the Zoo and Botanical Garden, and several other private gardens.

ASA Past President and horticulturist **Buddy Lee** also made the trip from Independence, Louisiana, and suggested the possibility of hosting a national convention in Evansville. He was impressed with the city's historic preservation area and used a photo of **Pam** and **John Guthrie's** residence in a presentation he made at the convention in Nacogdoches.