

ASA Seed Exchange

By Aaron Cook

As most of you know, we have a new seed exchange program in the ASA. In order for it to grow and become successful, we need your seed contributions. So please make crosses and collect seed from desirable plants in order to contribute to the seed exchange.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the following contributors: **Bob Stelloh, Joe and Donna Coleman, John and Sally Perkins, Ray Head, Frank Pelurie, Larry Mucci, Jim Thornton, Ed Collins** and other members of the Vaseyi Chapter. Last year we had 94 different seed lots and generated more than \$200 toward the ASA's general operating fund.

The future success of the program is dependent on you. Please consider making a seed contribution for this year's seed exchange. Seed will be accepted from ASA members and other sources throughout the year until December 15.

The seed packets from each plant should include at least 50 seeds and be described by the following:

- (1) Contributor's name;
- (2) Seed parent name;
- (3) Pollen parent name;
- (4) Pollination type (c.w., o.p., h.p.);
- (5) Where collected (geographic feature or town); and
- (6) Notes.

There is a seed data form on the ASA website that can be downloaded and printed.

If you have digital pictures of the parents, please e-mail them to Bob Stelloh with the name, date and location taken, for posting on the web linked to your seed.

Seed should be current years production and cleaned. Put the cleaned seed from one plant into one paper envelope with one completed form, and mail any number of these envelopes to:

ASA Seed Exchange
804 Piedmont Ave.
Valdese, NC 28690-3161

When the seed is received, each packet is assigned a number and stored until January 1. On January 1, the seed list will be posted on the internet and mailed to anyone requesting a print copy.

We will begin filling seed orders on January 1. Orders for seed will be filled only for contributors or Azalea Society members until the end of February. Starting March 1, orders will be filled for anyone.

As an added incentive to contribute seed, all contributors will be sent a list of bonus seed that is in quantities too small to be offered on the regular seed exchange. They may order seed from this list free of charge, only paying the shipping cost.

All seed not distributed before the annual convention will be brought to the convention and offered for sale there. Once the sale at the convention is complete the seed exchange will be closed until the following year.

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter

Harold Belcher, President

The Ben Morrison Chapter visited Hillwood Estate Museum and Gardens in Washington, D.C., on October 13. Hillwood exhibits the legacy of its founder Marjorie Merriweather Post and her world class collections of imperial Russian and western European fine and decorative arts.

Chapter members were treated to an interesting and fun filled day at Hillwood. Members who arrived prior to the garden tour had an opportunity to look at the gardens and socialize. Members took a docent-guided morning garden tour from 10:30 until 11:30 a.m. Hillwood gardens represent a lush and varied landscape. The estate was designed to be a site where the owner and visitors could enjoy sophisticated urban pleasures within a peaceful and inviting setting.

The garden tour began in the back of the mansion, where we were given a history of the house and the placement of sculpture and plantings. We continued around the mansion to see the rose and cutting gardens, the front of the house where Mrs. Post entertained her guests in good weather, the Japanese garden with an interesting waterfall, a lunar lawn, the putting green, four seasons sculptures, friendship gardens, and French parterre garden. The various gardens represented both very formal and informal designs and could accommodate a variety of entertaining opportunities. We noticed some of the azaleas in the garden were blooming due to the unseasonably warm weather. Members had an early lunch in the café. A short business meeting was held at the conclusion of lunch.

We had another docent-guided afternoon tour of the mansion and museum from 1:30 until 3 p.m. Our tour of the mansion and museum was a delight. On display were decorative art objects including: Fabergé eggs; sculpture; icons; paintings; and rare printed works on paper acquired by Hillwood during the past three decades. The exhibitions marked Hillwood's 30th anniversary as a public museum.

The Hillwood docent provided a very detailed and entertaining description of Mrs. Post's lifestyle and artwork. The docent's ability to place the artwork within the context of Russian or French history was informative and enjoyable. She also provided several entertaining anecdotes concerning Mrs. Post's collections.

At the conclusion of our tour, members were free to revisit the gardens, greenhouse (which was filled with orchids and other interesting and unusual plants), visit the gift shop, or continue through the mansion and museum.

Louisiana Chapter

Allen Owings, President

Fifteen members of the Louisiana Chapter met at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station in Hammond on October 18. The speaker for the evening was Robert

Turley, horticulturist for the LSU AgCenter from Lake Charles.

Turley discussed growing conditions for azaleas, emphasizing soil types, in different areas of Louisiana. He also provided an overview of azalea varieties that have performed well during the last few years in his home landscape.

Business items discussed included efforts to solicit dues from non-renewing members, the Encore® Azalea hurricane restoration projects being solicited by PDSI, the group's previous effort with azalea planting in downtown Hammond, and a need to develop an Azalea City in Louisiana.

Native plants and additional azalea varieties have been planted at the Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden located at the Hammond Research Station. Plans were made for the Chapter's Christmas gathering to be held at Margie Jenkins' home in Amite on Sunday, December 9.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Jane Newman, Secretary

The Chapter's first annual public auction was held at Merrifield Garden Center in Fairfax, Virginia on August 26. Members donated more than 100 azaleas for the auction. Long-time Chapter member **Carolyn Beck** donated a large number of landscape azaleas from her home due to a renovation project. We all benefitted greatly from her generosity.

Don Hyatt supplied wonderful digital pictures of nearly all of the plants, and Aaron Copeland provided music. Members supplied vast amounts of food and drink for the public who were happy to pay good prices for good plants.

The auction was a huge success, netting the Chapter nearly \$2,000 which will be used toward the 2009 annual convention in Herndon, Virginia.

At the Chapter's September 30 meeting, Vice President **Barry Sperling** discussed his experience in testing **Mike Creel's** method of cutting propagation as recently described in *The Azalean*.

Oconee Chapter

Ruth Mellon, Secretary

Approximately 16 people participated in a cutting party at **Joe and Donna Coleman's** home in September. Those present had an unexpected honor when ASA President **John Brown** joined the group. He collected cuttings of Glenn Dale hybrids. A nice aspect of the cutting activity (in addition to being able to select from the largest collection of azaleas in the southeast) was the noon lunch break when participants had the opportunity to discuss azaleas and other pleasantries.

Vaseyi Chapter

John Brown, Newsletter Editor

The Chapter's September meeting was a double-barreled barrel of fun and enlightenment. **Dick Figlar** brought his wealth of information on the general subject of evergreen magnolias, presenting pictures and descriptions of species

seldom seen on this continent. **Boris Bauer** rounded out the program with digital images of deciduous varieties.

Their presentation style of banter as they presented some excellent photographic skills overcame the normal reticence of the 20 members and guests.

Bauer concluded the evening with a presentation on his favorite garden tool, a heavy-duty tree puller that weighs a ton, costs a fortune, and is very effective at pulling trees without overly disturbing the soil. Chapter members left the meeting with visions of beautiful magnolias in gardens which are free of weed trees eliminated by the Extractigator. This tool can be found at www.extractor.com. There are several varieties on the market so look around to find the one that best suits you.

New Members

At Large

Michael W. O'Hara
2111 Sunrise Way
Jamison, PA 18929
mh21wy@comcast.net

Northern Virginia

Linda Ownby
7812 Valleyfield Dr
Springfield, VA 22153
ownbyfam@hotmail.com

Oconee

James O. Harris
538 Swanson Dr
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

TriState

Chris Blom
PO Box 1013
Tahoe City, CA 96145
christianblom@sbcglobal.net

Pat Swan

520 Sandalwood Dr.
Evansville, IN 47715
twoswans@sigecom.net

Vaseyi

Jordana Chalneck
Biltmore Company, Gardens
1 N. Pack Square
Asheville, NC 28801
jcoleman@biltmore.com

Marilyn Grist DVM

Greer Animal Hospital Inc.
2512 Wade Hampton Blvd
Greenville, SC 29615
specialorder@petcaremobile.com

Erica Piela

Biltmore Company, Gardens
1 N. Pack Square
Asheville, NC 28801
jcoleman@biltmore.com

It's Time to Renew Your ASA Membership...

Watch your mailbox for your annual
membership renewal notice.

Or renew early, by visiting the society's website at
<http://azaleas.org/joinus.html>

The Azalea Society of America is a tax exempt
501(C)(3) organization, and any amount above \$25
for an annual membership is a charitable
contribution under section 170 of the
U.S. Internal Revenue Code.