

Society News

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates as directors for 2008-10. To vote please use the official ballot found on the wrapper of this issue. Ballots must be received by March 15, 2008.

Hale Booth of Signal Mountain, Tennessee, has an abiding fascination for azaleas and ericaceous plants. "Gardening has been a passion for me since I grew my first four-o'clock in a coffee can at about age five on a Mississippi front porch," said Booth.

Booth holds a Master of Arts degree in Science of Planning. He served as Executive Director of a regional planning agency in Tennessee for 30 years before recently retiring. During his career, he helped build and manage a large economic development agency with diverse funding sources.

He is a founding member and the immediate past president of the Tennessee River Gorge Trust which to date, has protected 16,000+ acres of the scenic and biological treasures of the Cumberland Plateau. He has considerable experience in helping groups prioritize needs and implement goals as well as develop financial strategies to reach those goals.

For the past few years, Booth has been president of his local Rhododendron Chapter and has a good understanding of the types of issues and opportunities chapters face.

Presently Booth is deputy director of a non-profit business lending and economic development organization in Chattanooga. He and his wife, Susan, raise and occasionally kill all manner of diverse plants in their woodland garden on Signal Mountain. In addition to azaleas and rhododendrons, they grow bamboo, magnolias, Asian woody shrubs, and about anything with chlorophyll. They have two daughters in college.

Ron Hooper of Aiken, South Carolina is a member of the Vaseyi Chapter. He started collecting rhododendrons while living in east Tennessee. After moving to South Carolina, Hooper changed his focus to native plants, particularly native azaleas.

He joined the ASA Vaseyi Chapter when it was formed, and enjoys attending regional and national meetings of both the ASA and American Rhododendron Society.

Maarten van der Giessen majored in Chemistry at the University of South Alabama. He was the assistant manager at Cottage Hill Nursery in Irvington, Alabama, from 1987 to 1990 and has been manager and Vice-President of van der Giessen Nursery in Semmes, Alabama, since 1990.

He is a past president of the South Alabama Nurserymen's Association, a past board member of the Azalea Society of America, and current president of the Mobile Botanical Gardens.

The Nominating Committee recommends **Carol Flowers**

as the candidate for secretary. Flowers interest in azaleas began 30 years ago when all the large trees surrounding her house died. When building the house, contractors had filled in around the trees, suffocating the roots.

After having all the dead trees removed, she and her husband decided to create their own mini-arboretum. She called the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., for information. Staff at the National Arboretum referred them to the American Rhododendron Society through which they learned about propagating and caring for rhododendrons.

Eventually, she and her husband joined the ASA and have been active in the Ben Morrison Chapter for many years. Carol has served as both chapter treasurer and secretary at various times.

ASA Financial Position at December 31, 2006

INCOME STATEMENT

Income	
Azalean Income	3,248.95
Dues Income	19,094.00
Gift Income	8,491.00
Interest Income	1,959.87
Other Income	2,054.47
Total Income	34,848.29

Expenses	
Awards & Memoria	100.00
Azalean Expense	20,240.47
Dues Expense	2,802.70
Member Roster	0.00
Other Expense	6,113.62
Other Postage	662.04
Website Expense	239.81
Total Expenses	30,158.64
Income-Expenses	4,689.65

BALANCE SHEET

Assets	
Checking	6,475.19
Investments	70,328.82
Harding Garden	5,483.91
Total Assets	82,287.92

Liabilities, Reserves, Operating Funds	
Liabilities	0.00
General Reserve	48,669.08
Research Reserve	13,235.00
Harding Reserve	5,483.91
Operating Funds	14,899.93
Total	82,287.92

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Stelloh, Treasurer 2/28/07