

## Oconee

*Ruth Mellon, Secretary*

New officers were elected recently for the Oconee Chapter: **Ed Mellon**, president; **Keri Robinson**, vice president; **Fred Vick**, treasurer; **Ruth Mellon**, secretary; **Frank Bryan**, editor; and **James Thornton**, membership and public relations.

## Texas

*Barbara Stump, Treasurer*

Azalea Trail tours and events have been organized all around East Texas. A few notable activities involving our chapter members and ASA Azalea Cities are:

March 7, 8, and 9—The 73rd Annual Azalea Trail in Houston, Texas, features two public gardens, The River Oaks Garden Club Forum of Civics Gardens and Bayou Bend Gardens as well as five other private gardens. The River Oaks Garden Club organizes this event, and the Web site for the event lists “organic experts” to consult, and the Texas Chapter is recruiting members at the Forum of Civics at the beginning of the trail. Visit <http://riveroaksgardenclub.org/azaleatrail.cfm> for more information.

March 14-April 6—The city of Tyler has many civic events scheduled during azalea season, from art exhibits and a bicycle tour to a flower show. The main tour dates were March 28 and 30, including a candlelight tour and party. Visit <http://www.tylerazaleatrail.com> for details.

March 15-31—Nacogdoches Azalea Trail events included the very popular “Little Princess Tea Party,” a

photography show, and the annual Azalea Symposium. Held at the Agriculture Building at Stephen F. Austin State University on March 29, the theme is “Secrets of Azalea Gardens, Old and New.” It is a chance for azalea-lovers and tourists alike to hear the behind-the-scenes stories of azalea gardens in the South.

Texas Chapter President and Bayou Bend Gardens Curator **Bart Brechter** will present the historic design of Houston’s oldest azalea garden (1926-7) and tell how he has converted it to a totally organic public garden. LSU AgCenter’s Resident Coordinator **Dr. Regina Bracy**, will present the steps she and her staff took to begin developing the new Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden at Hammond, Louisiana, in 2006. **Margie Jenkins** of Amite, Louisiana, past ASA board of directors member and master-propagator, will present ways to propagate evergreen and deciduous azaleas. **Barbara Stump** will reveal the design secrets of the SFA Mast Arboretum Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden during a guided tour.

As was the case with the national ASA convention in 2007 in Nacogdoches, this event was co-sponsored by the Nacogdoches Convention and Visitors Bureau, the SFA Mast Arboretum, and the Texas Chapter of the Azalea Society of America. For more information, call 936-564-7351.

## Vaseyi

*John Brown, Secretary*

The Vaseyi Chapter held its Annual Meeting on November 25, 2007, at the Bullington Horticultural Learning Center. President **Doley Bell** opened the meeting by welcoming the newest member, **Marilyn Grist**. **Glenn O’Sheal** presented the Nominating Committee Report and the membership voted unanimously to elect all candidates. Glenn will fill the unexpired term of Director **Dwayne Clayburn**. **April Sanborn** and **Wes Burlingame** will serve as Directors.

**Ed Collins** presented a convention report. The hotel is reserved; the tours and buses are set; and the speakers are lined up. The biggest need is volunteer workers. There are jobs open in all areas, including bus captain, Bullington host, props managers, plant sale, chase cars, or assistant to anybody.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned in favor of the covered dish luncheon. As a try-out for the convention, the main dish was barbecue from the caterer selected for Saturday’s convention lunch. By all accounts, we picked a winner with the combination of pulled pork and barbecued chicken. It should be noted that while barbecue was the main dish, it was certainly not the only highlight of the meal. Like last year, the dishes overflowed two tables and each dish was superb in its own way.

# Society News

## National membership meeting planned

The ASA will host its annual national membership meeting at 8:15 p.m., Saturday, May 3, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Asheville - Biltmore West, 435 Smokey Park Highway, Asheville, North Carolina 28806.

The new ASA officers will be installed during the meeting. (See page 83 of the Winter 2007 issue of *The Azalean* for the Nomination Committee report.) A ballot was included in the Winter 2007 issue of *The Azalean* and must be received by April 1, 2008.

## Board of Directors meetings set

The ASA Board of Directors will meet from 1 to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 1, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Asheville - Biltmore West, 435 Smokey Park Highway, Asheville, North Carolina 28806.

The Board will receive reports on the Azalea City program, North Carolina State University archives, and membership.

A second Board of Directors meeting will be held from 7:30 to 9 a.m., Sunday, May 4, 2008, providing an opportunity for newly elected officers to discuss any new business.

ASA National Convention  
**Honor the Greats in Two Thousand Eight**  
May 1-4, 2008, Asheville, NC  
For more information visit <http://www.azaleas.org>