

Society News

Membership Renewals Due

Dan Krabill, ASA Treasurer

It is almost time for most of us to renew our memberships in the Azalea Society of America. The year your membership expires appears on the top line of the address label for this issue of *The Azalean*. If the year 2008 appears on that line, your membership expires at the end of this year.

Dues notices are mailed in early November. If we get your check before then (or an e-mail saying you're sending it), you may take a \$1 "early bird" discount off the amount of the check. That's our thanks for not having to spend the time and money to mail you a dues notice. Or, if you know you are not going to renew, please let us know by letter or e-mail, so we will not have to mail you a dues notice.

First, review the information on your address label and make any needed corrections. Also, if your telephone number or e-mail address has changed, please provide us with the correct information.

Then, circle an amount in the table below to show the number of years and the type of membership you would like. The table includes a \$1 discount for each year paid in advance, up to \$5 per year. Those years are paid in full even if the dues are increased later. For example, to renew for four years as a Regular Member, circle \$94 in the table.

Years	Regular	Contributing	Supporting	Endowment
1	\$25	\$50	\$100	\$200
2	\$49	\$99	\$199	\$399
3	\$72	\$147	\$297	\$597
4	\$94	\$194	\$394	\$794
5	\$115	\$240	\$490	\$990
6	\$135	\$285	\$585	\$1185

Subtracting \$1 for your "early bird" discount?

[] Yes [] No

Or, consider joining for life, for the one-time payment of \$500 or five consecutive annual payments of \$100 each. Sorry, this is not available for organizations or overseas members.

Finally, write your check or money order in US dollars for the total amount, payable to the "Azalea Society of America." Mail it along with a copy of this page to:

Dan Krabill, ASA Treasurer
6009 Copely Lane
McLean, VA 22101-2507
E-mail address: dkrabill@gmail.com

Alternatively, you may pay your dues with a credit card online through Paypal (<http://www.paypal.com>). Send your

dues payment to: PayTheASA@aol.com. You can open a PayPal account in minutes (and if it asks, please mention PayTheASA@aol.com as the person who referred you). Then describe your changes, your membership type, and the number of years you are renewing for in the comments section.

Azaleas Gifted to North Carolina Arboretum

Alison Arnold, The North Carolina Arboretum

Following the Azalea Society of America's 2008 national convention and annual meeting held in Asheville, North Carolina, in May, The North Carolina Arboretum was presented with three azalea species to be added to its National Native Azalea Repository bringing the collection to 16 total representative azaleas native to the U.S.

The event was hosted by the Society's Vaseyi Chapter from Hendersonville, North Carolina. Former Vaseyi Chapter President **Ed Collins**, Treasurer **Bob Stelloh**, and ASA National President **John Brown** presented the Arboretum's Director of Horticulture Alison Arnold with the gift. Arnold was pleased to receive the gift, saying "We are very excited to accept these plants and are grateful for the support the members of the Vaseyi Chapter continues to give the North Carolina Arboretum."

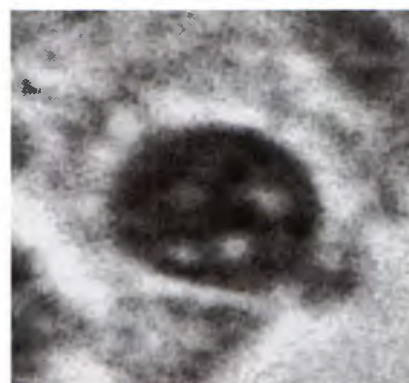
The conference, themed "Honor the Greats in Two Thousand Eight," focused on three people, Chauncey Beadle, Henry Skinner and Augie Kehr, who during their lifetime made many contributions to the plant world, among them

▼ ASA National President John Brown
presents a native azalea to Alison Arnold,
director of horticulture at The North Carolina Arboretum

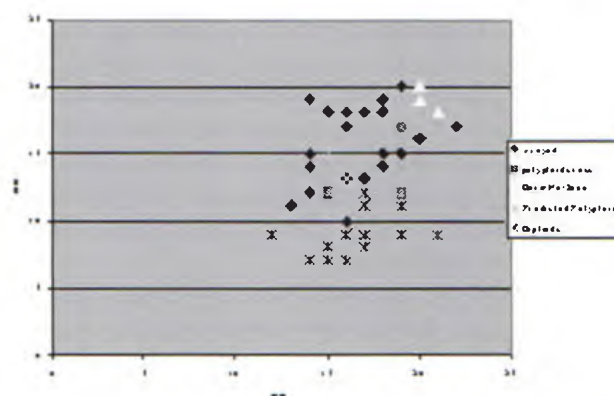


Photo Bob Stelloh

“Polyploidization of Evergreen Azaleas” High School Science Fair



Comparison of Stomata Sizes



▲ Caitlin at work at the microscope.

many azalea selections and hybrids. Their stories were told during the convention, and participants also visited gardens, enjoyed presentations, garden tours, and plant sales.

Arboretum Receives Society Gifts

John Brown, ASA President

The Society recently received a news release issued by The North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, which demonstrates the relationship that should exist between the ASA and other horticultural groups (*reprinted on page 59*).

It begins with the fact that The North Carolina Arboretum Horticultural Director **Alison Arnold** is a participating member of the Vaseyi Chapter. The Chapter and the arboretum have worked together on several projects, including our planned financial support for a signage project in the National Native Azalea Repository. Both the Society and arboretum benefited from ASA convention tours in 2001 and 2008. It is the intention of the Vaseyi Chapter to maintain and develop this relationship in the coming years.

The plants donated to the arboretum were provided by Vaseyi Chapter members **Vivian Abney**, **Allen Cantrell**, and **Bob Stelloh**. Vivian owns and operates East Fork Nursery which specializes in azaleas, both evergreen and deciduous. Allen operates Fern Gully Nursery specializing in deciduous azaleas. Bob donated a layered *Rhododendron*

occidentale which may well be the best thriving example of the species on the East Coast. The mother plant was certainly a happy one when seen during the tour of the Stelloh garden during the last convention.

Research Foundation Study Group Formed

James Thornton, Study Group Chair

You can't blame Bob Stelloh if you're not aware of the drive to form an Azalea Society Research Foundation. He has kept the subject alive through "The Seed is Growing" updates in *The Azalean*. All the way back to the 2001 convention when the concept was first presented to the Board of Directors to this year when steps were finally taken to put something in motion.

If you read the President's Letter or the Society News in the last issue of *The Azalean*, you'll know that a motion was made and passed to appoint ours truly to chair a study group concerning the formation of an ASA Research Foundation. A study group of six people is now in place with members **Robert Adams**, **Hale Booth**, **John Brown**, **Robert Lee**, **John Migas**, and **Bob Stelloh**. The group's goal is to determine the feasibility of and develop a plan to institute an ASA foundation. One option is to establish a non-profit organization dedicated to the research, development and improvement of azalea culture.

When established, the foundation may provide funds

Where is Caitlin now?

Caitlin, the daughter of Joe and Brenda Klimavicz of the Northern Virginia Chapter, is still involved in scientific research. She recently completed background research on possible uses of nanotechnology in batteries for implantable devices.

She is a sophomore Bassoon Performance major with a full scholarship at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. She is also a pre-med student and plans to continue nanotechnology research.

for botanical and genetical research, including fertilization and pest and disease control (an endeavor in which we could all use some help).

Speaking of research, think back to Caitlin Klimavicz's article "Polyploidization of Evergreen Azaleas," in the Fall 2005 issue of *The Azalean*. At the time, Caitlin was a high school junior winning awards for azalea research. The point I want to make is this: There has to be a host of Caitlins—and institutions—who could promote such activities and who could use our help (see breakout above regarding Caitlin).

Foundation funding will come from all quarters—individual members, non-members, local chapters, corporations, and other foundations. We already have some seed money, but not enough to fund a project. Some of you might say: "Well, times are hard and people are trying to cut back." I beg to differ. Did you know Americans gave more than \$306 billion (yes, billions!) to charity in 2007. This was up one percent from 2006. Seventy-five percent was from individual donors at about \$100 a shot (not \$1,000s).

Think about it. A foundation like ours could—should—be on the receiving end of some of those donations. We have to start somewhere, and we have to start now.

Last words—"Charity begins at home." You'll soon have the opportunity!

New Members

Alabamese

Ken and Rita Powell
2602 Overlook Road
Blountsville, AL 35031

Ralf Bauer
Heinrich Heine Str. 8
77654 Offenburg.

Magnolia Plantation
3550 Ashley River Road
Charleston, SC 29414

Gerald Klingaman
1645 Applebury Dr.
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Sandra Justus
159 Sandy Oak Lane
Gaston, SC 29053

Wallace Alexander
472 Long Spires Rd
Gaston, SC 29053

Ben Morrison
Patricia & Bill Patterson
3422 Medina Lane
Bowie, MD 20715

Walter Ellis
3625 Jennifer St. NW
Washington, DC 20015

Hybridizers: Leave Your Legacy— A Report: Nothing

James Thornton—Conyers, Georgia

Editor's Note: The form is included on the following page.

I'll take that back. I received one response by the deadline. Before I say anything more, Galle was right—I was wrong! In his book, *Azaleas*, Galle said: "It took a lot of effort, often frustrating" to make his list.

At the time "Hybridizers: Leave your Legacy" was published (Vol. 30, No. 1, *The Azalean*), I didn't think it was going to be a problem. Everything was outlined, a form was provided, and we were going to put the information into a database to update Galle's list. It didn't help!

A funny thing about this project is that a few of us made a list of today's hybridizers who *should* respond. There were quite a few people on the list. We also made a list of those who *might* respond. Boy was I being overly optimistic!

I will say this: I received one response from someone very few of us knew and who was not on the list. Give him credit though—we know him now.

What was it? What happened? Why no responses? Was it the deadline? (*No one advised that information would be forthcoming.*) Was it too much work to fool with? Was the timing off for the season to ask for data? Was the data not readily available? Was the data being held too close to the vest? Was the data not being collected "my way"? Or was it plain old apathy?

Folks, a lot of work went into this project, not only on my part but others. And a lot of work remains if we can get your input.

What now? Well, the door remains open as long as I'm able and have the patience. After that, who knows, maybe someone else will come a long and take up the cause. But it's still your call to provide the data.

New deadline? How about the cut off date Pam has for the 2009 Spring issue of *The Azalean* (January 15, 2009). Just don't make us feel like Galle!

Lest I forget! Let me introduce David Purdy to the list of hybridizers. David lives in Omaha, Nebraska, but formerly resided in Huntington (Long Island), New York, where he was hybridizing azaleas for 19 years. He primarily uses *poukhanense* and *kiusianum* in his crosses with the goal of producing azaleas of merit for the Omaha area. You can contact David at dandepurdy@cox.net.

You can still reach me at jimpatsy@comcast.net.

Jim Thornton is an occasional contributor to *The Azalean*. He is a co-founder and the first president of the Oconee Chapter. He has served as a director, vice president, and president of the Azalea Society of America. Jim presently is the membership and public relations chair of the Oconee Chapter.