

quet room before 6:30 p.m., since we will be staging a short but very entertaining auction. The banquet begins at 7 p.m. in the same room followed by our evening speakers, **Rosalie Nachman** and **Don Hyatt**. We will conclude with the annual meeting.

Rosalie Nachman is a life-long gardener and past ASA board member. She has also served on the Board of the Middle Atlantic Chapter of the ARS and is well known in Henrico County for her expertise.

Her talk this evening will be "Advice to the Lovelorn Azalea Nut." One of the grand ladies of the ASA, Rosalie will combine her expert gardening advice with her delightful sense of humor as she shares mistakes and successes over many years while developing her private garden in Richmond, Virginia. Be prepared to laugh and learn in this memorable presentation.

Our keynote speaker is **Don Hyatt**. Don holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture and a Masters degree in Computer Science, both from Virginia Tech. Although professionally a public school math and computer science teacher his entire career, Don has maintained a life-long interest in gardening and plants of all kinds. He has served on the ASA Board and is a recipient of the ARS Silver Medal.

Don's talk is titled "Celebrating the Evergreen Azalea." This multi-media presentation celebrates the beauty and diversity of the evergreen azalea. Beginning with a brief history of this long-cherished flowering shrub, he will discuss some of the contributions of pioneers in the field like Joe Gable, Ben Morrison, John Creech, August Kehr and others before acknowledging some of the more recent and stunning accomplishments of our modern hybridizers including many here in Northern Virginia. He will then challenge us to look to the future so we can tap the full potential of the amazing evergreen azalea.

Annual Meeting

A brief membership meeting following the speakers will include the ASA awards ceremony and the election of new Society officers for the upcoming year.

Monday, May 4

The final plant sale takes place from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Monday morning. A Board meeting also takes place from 7 to 8:30 a.m., with a hybridizer's roundtable from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

For those who wish to remain in the area for a while, there are major attractions, including the National Arboretum and Mount Vernon in the metropolitan area, and some of our local gardens will also be open for informal tours. More information on these attractions and directions will be posted on the 2009 ASA Convention link on the Azalea Society of America web site (www.azaleas.org), and will also be available during convention registration.

Chapter News

Ben Morrison

Harold Belcher, President

Norman and **Jean Beaudry** presented a slide presentation detailing the 20-year evolution of their garden at the Chapter's October 19 meeting. They have an extensive collection of azaleas, rhododendrons and companion plants.

Don Hyatt presented a preview of the upcoming ASA convention which is being held in Northern Virginia in May.

Northern Virginia

Eve Harrison, President

Amol Kaikini from the Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association was the guest speaker at September's Chapter meeting. He spoke about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for azaleas and rhododendrons. He is a highly experienced Master Gardener who has extensive knowledge of organic gardening practices.

Oconee

Ruth Mellon, Secretary

The summer meeting of the Oconee Chapter was held June 14 in **Joe Coleman's** garden. It was a joint cutting party held with the Azalea Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. About 12 members from the two groups attended the event. Joe gave several private one-on-one tips on his method of propagation as well as a tour of his greenhouse.

Attendees also enjoyed a visit from ASA President **John Brown**.

Vaseyi

John Brown, Secretary

The September Chapter meeting was attended by 16 members including one new (old) re-joining member, **Susanne Brown**. The Chapter voted to fund one-half of the proposed signage project at the North Carolina Arboretum at Asheville provided the Southeastern Chapter of the ARS agrees to fund the other half.

A short report from the Vaseyi Chapter Awards Committee asked the membership for input on the name for the chapter award. Reference was made to the Brookside Gardens Frederic. P. Lee Award. Choices include The (Dr.) Augie (or August) Kehr Award, The Fred Galle Award, and the (Dr.) George Vasey Award. The Committee will try to sort out the discussion and include it in the report at the chapter's annual meeting in November.

A group discussion followed on the subject of gardening in the absence of water due to current watering restrictions. Many innovative ideas were shared for recycling water and keeping plants alive.