

# Chapter News

## Brookside Gardens

*Charles Evans, Past President*

At its annual meeting on December 7, the Brookside Gardens Chapter awarded its Frederic P. Lee Commendation to **Bobbi McCeney** for her many years of service to the chapter. A long-time member, no job has been too big or too difficult for Bobbi to tackle—whether it was planning and executing a formal national meeting luncheon in the midst of a flower show, providing a judge's breakfast in support of the annual azalea flower show, or hosting a chapter picnic at her home, serving as a flower show judge, or donating interesting plant material from her yard for the sales and auctions sponsored by the chapter.

The F. P. Lee Commendation, established in 1982, is awarded each year for distinguished contributions to furthering the knowledge of propagation, care, and general appreciation of azaleas; and for outstanding participation in chapter activities. For a list of previous recipients, see the chapter's Web site at: [www.azaleas.org/bgawards.html](http://www.azaleas.org/bgawards.html).

The speaker for the program was Anne Brooks, and her presentation was entitled "Flowering Shrubs for the Washington, DC Area." Her slides reflected many years of experience with plants appropriate for the area. In addition, she shared her successes with some fascinating plants not generally recognized as reliable in the region—reminding members that experimentation is part of the joy of gardening. Along with her talk Anne provided an excellent handout listing her favorite shrubs.

The chapter also held its annual election of officers, selecting **Mary Rutley**, vice president; **Robertta Hagen**, corresponding secretary; **Dianne Gregg**, recording secretary; and **Jim McCeney**, treasurer. Due to a technical complication, **William C. Miller III** was elected president at the February chapter meeting.

▼ Mary Rutley (left), Brookside Gardens Chapter vice president, presented the 2008 F. P. Lee Commendation to Bobbi McCeney of Laurel, Maryland during the chapter's annual meeting on December 7, 2008.



Photo: William C. Miller III

## Louisiana

*Allen Owings, President*

The Louisiana Chapter held its annual Christmas party at the home of **Margie Jenkins**. The chapter's planned fall meeting in Hammond was cancelled due to Hurricane Gustav. Earlier chapter meetings were held in February and May.

Officers for the chapter were re-elected for another two year term: **Allen Owings**, president; **Tom Milner**, vice president; **Regina Bracy**, secretary; and **Margie Jenkins**, treasurer. Chapter members **Buddy Lee** and **Margie Jenkins** made presentations at the Gulf States Horticultural Expo on January 29 in Mobile, Alabama.

The chapter also plans to host the ASA national convention in 2010, probably during the third week in March. If arrangements can be made, the convention will be headquartered in New Orleans. Members have discussed tours to the north shore area, including wholesale nurseries and Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden. Final details will be made available at the 2009 ASA convention in Virginia.

## Northern Virginia

*Eve Harrison, President*

In August, the chapter held its second annual public auction at Merrifield Garden Center in Fairfax. It was well attended and the plants sold for awfully high prices, especially anything purple! The auction did far better than anticipated, in large part due to the contributions of landscape azaleas by **Carolyn Beck**. **Don Hyatt** and **Bob Harrison** regaled the bidding audience while providing wonderful videos and accompanying music for each azalea presented. Each non-member was presented with a gift of an azalea for coming, and a large food table attracted people continuously.

Chapter members spent the fall preparing for the ASA national convention. Members are proud and excited to have visitors tour local gardens and peruse the wonderful plant sale. See you there!

## Oconee

*Ruth Mellon, Secretary*

The chapter's fall meeting was held at the Rockdale County Extension Office in Conyers, Georgia. It was a joint meeting with the American Rhododendron Society. **Joe Coleman** presented a slide show of beautiful azaleas photographed during the ASA national convention in Asheville, North Carolina.

The chapter also participated in the third annual Rockdale Master Gardeners plant sale held September 29. **Frank Bryan** made an informative presentation on native azaleas, and chapter members staffed a booth providing information on the care, diseases, and general tips for growing azaleas. The chapter also sold azaleas, including several natives donated by members and the Riverside Azalea Farm.