

# Society News

## Azalea Research Foundation proposed

During the 2008 ASA Annual meeting, President **John Brown** made a motion to form a study group to determine the feasibility and development of a plan to create a research foundation within the society. The motion was approved and **J.O. Thornton**, appointed to chair the group, sought the assistance of **John Brown, Bob Stelloh, John Migas, Buddy Lee, Hale Booth, and Robert Adams** to serve on the study group committee.

The group determined that a research foundation had been discussed over the last few years but was never brought to fruition even though there was never any real opposition. It was noted that many horticultural societies and organizations in the horticultural industry have had such a structure in place for many years. The results of their efforts have been favorable.

The study group determined it would be more than worthwhile for the ASA to proceed, thereby fulfilling an objective of its mission statement. The group also concluded the benefits would bring added value to the standing of the ASA among other societies while providing opportunities for research in pursuance of their concerns in respect to the growing and promotion of the azalea.

The Azalea Research Foundation would operate as a standing committee of the ASA to promote and support activities in the areas of classification, hybridization, culture, and education, through funding of appropriate

scientific and advanced studies and related activities that are of value to the ASA. The goals and objectives of the ARF are to solicit charitable donations to be used solely to provide grants to individuals and/or institutions to pursue areas of research of interest to the ASA and to document the results of such research.

The group recommends the ASA Board of Directors approve and adopt the plan. The group also suggests the BOD do so prior to the 2009 ASA annual meeting. This would allow the ASA president to proceed in appointing a Chairperson, who would then be able to form the foundation committee and prepare for a formal introduction at the annual meeting.

## National membership meeting planned

The ASA will host its annual national membership meeting at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 2, 2009, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - Dulles Airport, 2200 Centreville Road, Herndon, Virginia.

Newly elected ASA officers will be installed during the meeting. (See page 87 of the Winter 2008 issue of *The Azalean* for the Nomination Committee report.) A ballot was included in the Winter 2008 issue of *The Azalean* and must be received by April 1, 2009.

## Board of Directors meetings set

The ASA Board of Directors will meet from 2 to 4 p.m., Friday, May 1, 2009, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - Dulles Airport, 2200 Centreville Road, Herndon, Virginia.

A second Board of Directors meeting is scheduled from 7 to 8:30 a.m., Monday, May 4, 2009, providing an opportunity for newly elected officers to discuss new business.

## Letters to the Editor

### Where to find azalea cultivars?

I bought a plant labelled "Poukhanense Compacta" at a local nursery last summer. It looks like the label suggests—a compact form of Poukhanense. However, I cannot find mention of such a form in my reference books.

Can anyone tell me whether this is a recognized form, or the figment of some marketing man's imagination?

**David Purdy**  
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▼ Dr. Charles H. Evans, president of the Brookside Gardens Chapter, presenting a \$500 check to Ms. Stephanie Oberle, director of Brookside Gardens, in support of the 2009 Green Matters Symposium. The Green Matters Symposium, an annual event at Brookside Gardens, highlights a broad spectrum of environmental issues.



Letters to the Editor  
may be submitted via e-mail to  
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