

Chapter News

Lake Michigan

John Migas, Treasurer

The results of the Lake Michigan chapter's election for officers are as follow: **Phil Lanning**, president; **Rocky Voci**, vice president; **Barbara Wetzel**, Secretary; **John Migas**, treasurer; and **Dan Kunst**, director. The new terms will begin on May 1, 2009.

The chapter hosted a plant sale over Mothers Day weekend at Fernwood Botanical Garden in Niles, Michigan. The chapter is planning on creating a garden with Fernwood staff for this year.

The chapter's spring meeting was held in late May at the home of John Migas. Members visited various neighboring gardens.

Louisiana

Allen Owings, President

The Louisiana Chapter held its spring meeting on March 12 at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station. A nice group of folks showed up to eat boiled shrimp prepared by Horticulture Professor Ed Bush.

We were honored to have Mark Windham, plant pathologist at the University of Tennessee, as our guest speaker. Dr. Windham discussed ornamental plant pathology efforts currently on-going in Knoxville. He discussed several azalea issues in addition to providing information on the dogwood program at the University of Tennessee and rose trials.

Regina Bracy, chapter secretary, gave a ASA 2010 convention committee report. The dates of the convention are March 14 - 18, 2010 in New Orleans.

Several members attended the azalea stroll held at Burden Center's Windrush Gardens in Baton Rouge on Sunday, March 15. The garden is currently recovering from damage due to Hurricane Gustav. A nice collection of azaleas is located there—with some of the old Carla series being of particular interest to local chapter members.

Northern Virginia

Eve Harrison, President

At the chapter's January meeting, **Bob McWhorter** presented an excellent program on a threatening new insect pest in the region, the Asian Ambrosia Beetle, *Xylosandrus crassiusculus*. Although the insect itself is very tiny and doesn't look like it should do much damage, when the adults emerge in early spring they bore small holes in a variety of host plants to lay their eggs.

The hole the insect bores is only 2 mm across, and there is usually some delicate toothpick-like frass exuding from the opening. That hole shouldn't cause much damage to the plant, but at the same time the insect also infects the host plant with a fungus and that causes a problem, since it will kill the plant. There is no known cure for the fungus, and

insecticides cannot kill the larva inside either.

Chapter members were encouraged to monitor their garden by building Ambrosia Beetle traps. The traps are set out in March, a few days before temperatures are likely to hit 70° F. The first flight of these destructive insects is typically between March 11 and April 10 in the region.

If insects are found, there are some rather poisonous sprays that can be applied to the bark of susceptible trees and shrubs to kill the adults before they bore through the bark. After they are inside, there is little that can be done to kill them.

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 ARS with 13 members from the two clubs attending. The business portion of the meeting consisted of **Ken Goring's** account of ARS activities. Chapter President **Ed Mellon** suggested having two joint meetings a year. It was announced that **Frank Bryan** was retiring as newsletter editor and a request was made for a replacement.

Joe Coleman presented the program. He gave a power point presentation of pictures shown at the nation convention held in Asheville, North Carolina, in May 2008. There were many beautiful azaleas and information was given on their blooming season.

The Oconee Chapter participated in the third annual Rockdale Master Gardeners' Plant Sale held in September. Some members of the chapter staffed a booth at the sale, providing information on care, diseases, and general tips for growing azaleas. Members also sold lots of azaleas, including several natives, donated by members and the Riverside Azalea Farm.

Jim and Patsy Thornton were guests at the Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in Charleston, South Carolina, during its Winter Garden Festival in January. Jim presented the CD, "Selecting and Growing Azaleas," developed by the Oconee Chapter and the University of Georgia.

Call for Articles

The Azalean needs articles about azaleas, their care, and their use in the landscape. Articles should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents. Illustrations are highly encouraged.

Submission deadlines are: January 1 (Spring issue); April 1 (Summer issue); July 1 (Fall issue); and October 1 (Winter issue).

Submit articles to: Pam Fitch, Editor, *The Azalean*, P.O. Box 632537, Nacogdoches, TX 75963 or e-mail theazalean@gmail.com.