

# Chapter News

## Brookside Gardens

William C. Miller III, President

The speaker at the April 5 chapter meeting was **Jim Gears** of Octoraro Nursery. His presentation was a slide show entitled *Favorite Azaleas and Where They Grow*. Jim has been interested in the native azaleas for many years and has become known as a favorite source for all sorts of interesting and well grown plants. The Bob Stewart Door Prize was won by **FloAnn Bowen**, the White's Nursery Door Prize was won by **Janet Miller**, and the beautiful specimen of 'Bobbi Gail' (donated by **Jane Kinzie**) was won by **Mary Rutley**.

The chapter's 30th annual flower show was held May 1-2 and was highly successful. The Best-in-Show Award went to **Yoriko Chin** for her specimen of 'Girard's Hot Shot'. **Bill Miller** amassed the greatest number of points and received the Sweepstakes Award. The annual flower show is one of the chief public outreach activities sponsored by the chapter and much advice was dispensed to the information hungry

▼ Yoriko Chin (left) with her husband Ming, standing behind her Best-in-Show specimen of 'Girard's Hot Shot' at the 2009 Brookside Gardens Chapter's 30th annual flower show at Brookside Gardens on May 2, 2009.



public. For a list of Best-in-Show winners since 1980, see the Brookside Gardens Chapter Awards page at: <http://www.azaleas.org/bgawards.html>.

The chapter's annual azalea sales at the Tilden School parking lot on May 9 and at Brookside Gardens on May 17 were blessed with good weather. Well attended by the public, many plants found new homes.

The annual chapter picnic was held July 12 at the home of **Roberta** and **Gordon Hagen** in historic Cabin John, Maryland. Very active in the Magnolia and Azalea societies, the Hagens are equally interested in all kinds of plants. The Hagen garden is a collection many years in the making and a landscape worth seeing. The hospitality, the food, and the fellowship were delightful.

As of this writing, the next event will be the annual chapter auction at Brookside Gardens on Sunday, September 20. Historically, this has been a very popular event with the membership and the public—owing perhaps to the wide variety of plants that are available. All of the plants are donations and due to the highly diversified nature of our group, there is no way to predict what interesting plants will grace the auctioneer's stand. While there is always a good selection of azaleas, many rare plants and the occasional exotic plant turns up. In recent years, two such exotics were *Epiphyllum oxypetalum* (night blooming cereus) and *Plumeria* (the source of flowers for Hawaiian leis).

The speaker for the October 11 chapter meeting at Brookside Gardens will be **Bill Johnson**. The title for his presentation is *Hillwood Through the Seasons*. A past chapter president, Bill is a horticulturist and volunteer coordinator for Hillwood, the 25-acre Marjorie Merriweather Post estate (museum and gardens) located in northwest Washington, DC.

The last chapter event for 2009 will be the December 6 meeting. **Jane Kinzie**, the president of Kinzie Farms, will be the speaker and her presentation is entitled *Azaleas—A Local Grower's Perspective*. At this meeting, we will have the annual election of officers and the presentation of the F. P. Lee Commendation for 2009. For a complete list of recipients of the F. P. Lee Commendation, see the Brookside Gardens Chapter Awards page at: <http://www.azaleas.org/bgawards.html>.

## Lake Michigan

John Migas, Treasurer

The temperatures here in the Midwest have been way below average, and above average rainfalls have been welcomed by all. Plants have been growing extremely well and summer budset is excellent. The chapter is planning a late summer cutting party for August or early September.

Chapter President **Phil Lanning** along with **John Migas** have been working on updating the roster list, mostly e-mail addresses. Plans are in the making for the Lake Michigan



▲ Margie Jenkins (left) speaks to a group gathered at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station. Also pictured is Louisiana Chapter Member Regina Bracy (right).

Photo Allen Owings

Chapter to host a future event here in the Midwest, along with plans for the chapter's first Christmas holiday gathering.

## Louisiana

*Allen Owings, President*

The late spring meeting of the Louisiana Chapter was held on Sunday, May 17 at the home of **Randall and Regina Bracy** in Amite. Boiled crawfish were enjoyed by the 25 members in attendance. Chapter member **Wayne McLaurin** presented **Margie Jenkins** a beautifully framed photograph of her in the azalea garden at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station. A large framed edition was also presented to **Regina Bracy** for display at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station.

The group is actively working on plans for the ASA national convention in New Orleans scheduled for March 14-17, 2010. Information and registration forms will appear in the Winter issue of *The Azalean*.

## Northern Virginia

*Rick Bauer, Vice President*

The Northern Virginia Chapter was busily engaged in final preparation for the national convention in May. We were concerned that the economy would put a damper on attendance, but were all pleasantly surprised with the turnout—153 ASA members attended various aspects of the convention and 118 participated in the garden tours each day. While Mother Nature didn't completely cooperate with us, it didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the par-

ticipants. We'd like to thank those ASA members who were able to attend this year's convention. It was a pleasure meeting you.

The last Sunday in March the chapter met at the George Mason Library in Annandale to hear a presentation by **Don Hyatt** on **Bob Stewart's** hybrid azaleas. This presentation was highlighted by the many beautiful pictures of Bob's azaleas which were taken by **Carolyn Beck**. This segment was later included in the **Bob Stewart/Pete Vines** presentation given the first night of the convention. Bob is a long-time member of the Northern Virginia chapter, and many of the convention attendees were able to see his hybrid azaleas first hand during the garden tours.

On July 12, we held our annual cutting exchange at George Mason Library. This event is eagerly anticipated by our members each year, since it provides them an opportunity to obtain cuttings from a wide variety of azaleas. It also provides us the opportunity to sample **Lee and Carole McElvain's** homemade ice cream and toppings.

## Oconee

*Ruth Mellon, Secretary*

The Oconee Chapter met May 17 with 12 members in attendance. **Frank Bryan** was the main speaker with his PowerPoint presentation on native azaleas. This was an excellent program with superior photographs. Frank also provided a highly detailed handout that could be used by any novice to identify native azalea plants.

After a short break, Frank presented a fun piece on "bugs," again showing his expertise in photography. **Jim Thornton** then showed the group a new version of the Oconee Chapter Web site presentation which can now be seen on "YouTube" (search "Azaleas Oconee").

Vice President **Keri Roberson** conducted a business meeting where such items as programs, membership, and shows, and the annual Master Gardeners Fall Festival set for the first week in October. In addition, the post of Oconee Chapter Newsletter Editor is still open. At the close of the meeting, the members recognized **Allison Fuqua** on his 95th birthday.

## Vaseyi

*Suzanne W. Medd, Secretary*

The chapter held its annual cutting exchange on July 26 at the Bullington Center. **Leeann Connelly-Shearouse**, known as one of the leading authorities on aquatic plants, was the guest speaker. Through the years, Leeann has developed many new tropical and hardy water lilies. It is widely accepted that she was the first to develop the now popular double anemone form of the tropical day-blooming water lily. This was from some crosses she did involving *Nymphaea colorata*, *N. 'Midnight'* and *N. ampla*. Many of today's modern double hybrids come to us through this work.

In 1987, she founded Tropical Pond & Garden, and she also served as a contributing editor and featured columnist for *Water Gardening Magazine*. In 1998, she received international recognition and was awarded the Banksian medal



from the Royal Horticultural Society of London, England, for one of her tropical day bloomers 'Helen Nash'. Today, she is semi-retired and lives at Cedar Mountain, NC.

Other works from Connelly include a series of hybrid water iris called 'Fallen Heroes'. Each iris in this series is named for a police officer killed in the line of duty. Photos of her *Nymphaea* 'Blue Anemone', *N.* 'Joseph Baynard Shearouse', and *N.* 'Stormy Weather' are available online at [www.internationalwaterlilycollection.com](http://www.internationalwaterlilycollection.com).

## New Members

### Ben Morrison

Peter Wharton  
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### Brookside Gardens

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## Quest for the Yellow Evergreen Azalea

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selecting for vigor and superior evergreen foliage.

I call on all azalea hybridizers in the ASA to join in the hunt for the yellow evergreen azalea. It will take time, experimentation, collaboration, and plenty of luck, but I am certain we can do it! Of course, when we eventually get that race of perfect yellow evergreen azaleas, rock-hardy plants with glossy dark green foliage and strongly fragrant, large ruffled flowers in shades of light lemon to deep gold that also resist petal blight, then we can start working on our next goal, a blue azalea. Hey... we can dream, can't we?

*Don Hyatt has been an avid hybridizer of azaleas and rhododendrons for more than 30 years, with a particular interest in deciduous azaleas.*

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