

# Chapter News

## Brookside Gardens

*William C. Miller III, President*

The chapter auction was held at Brookside Gardens on Sunday, September 20. A popular annual event, the weather cooperated, the turnout was good, the selection on the block was outstanding, and the bidding was spirited. A good time was had by all.

The speaker at the October 11 chapter meeting was **Bill Johnson**, a past chapter president. A horticulturist at the Hillwood Estate, Museum, and Gardens, Bill's PowerPoint presentation, entitled *Hillwood Through the Seasons*, was a seasonal walk through Hillwood's magnificent gardens located in northwest Washington, DC. It was noted that from a design standpoint, a fundamental effort has been made to keep and maintain the gardens as Marjorie Merriweather Post left them. On those rare occasions when a plant expires, an effort is made to replace it either with the same plant or a plant consistent with that period. The gardens are filled with marvelously mature (many more than 100 years old) specimens of plants that are increasingly difficult to find in the trade.

At the October meeting, there were two door prizes. The first was a beautiful specimen of 'Oh My' provided by **Janet Miller** which was won by **Mary Rutley**. 'Oh My' was one of five Satsuki hybrids imported from Japan by USDA pathologist R. Kent Beattie in 1928. It was actually named by the late George Harding who confessed that he named it that because every time he showed it to a woman—that's what she said. For more information about 'Oh My', see the article 'Oh My' Is Very Pretty, But 'My-O' Is Irresistible', *The Azalean*, Vol. 22, No. 1, March 2000, pp.5-7. A picture of 'Oh My' is available on The Azalea Works Web site at [www.theazaleaworks.com](http://www.theazaleaworks.com), and—collectors take note—the plant is available from White's Nursery in Germantown, Maryland. The second door prize, a Johnson's Florist and Garden Center gift certificate, went to **Bea Newkirk**. Attending chapter meetings is more than just educational and social—it has extra benefits.

There was one item of business at the October meeting. The chair entertained a motion that the chapter provide a grant of \$500 to Brookside Gardens in support of the 2010 Green Matters Symposium. **Betty Bieberly** so moved and the motion was seconded by **Flo Ann Bowen**. After a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously. The chapter's support of this Brookside Gardens program is something of a tradition, and **Mary Rutley** was asked to arrange for a Brookside representative to appear at the chapter's December 6 meeting to receive the check.

At the December chapter meeting, **Jane Kinzie**, President of Kinzie Farms, will present a program entitled "Azaleas—A Local Grower's Perspective." In addition, there will be a number of items of business. We will have the presenta-

tion of the 2009 F. P. Lee Commendation and the election of officers for 2010. **Dr. Judy Karpen** will present a slate of officers for the membership's consideration and nominations from the floor will be accepted.

## Northern Virginia

*Eve Harrison, President*

The chapter met in July for its annual cutting exchange with hundreds of cuttings to choose from. This is such a great way for people to grow azaleas literally free, so it's a great opportunity to invite members of other gardening clubs and societies to visit and see one of the benefits of being a member of ASA. Additionally, the refreshment table just groaned under the benefits of folks contributing a dollar or so to the "jar" for the hospitality chairman to provide more varied dishes.

Plans were made at the November meeting for a party on December 6 at which elections will be held. We'll also have a general celebration of the season and toast the success of our recent convention. January promises to entail much discussion about donations from our profits, plans for new field trips, membership drives and a plant exchange for spring. Several members also met at a regional Japanese maple nursery November 6 where they purchased amazing trees at very low prices—another occasion to invite visitors!

## Oconee

*Ruth Mellon, Secretary*

The chapter met October 18 to hear an interesting and entertaining presentation by **Jody Karlin** of Just Add Water nursery in Conyers, Georgia. Jody brought several specimen plants from his collection of rare and unusual conifers and Japanese maples. These were plants he has collected during the years from all across the United States and other countries. During his presentation, Jody gave us some "hands-on" advice on how to prune and care for these types of plants. We were invited to an open house event the following weekend. However, we plan to visit his nursery and garden in the spring.

Because we were so taken with Jody's talk, we ran over time and had little time to discuss other chapter business such as the 2013 convention. President **Ed Mellon** brought a proposal package from the folks in Coweta County (Newnan). We will continue collecting such proposals in preparation for making our final selection. If you have any ideas along these lines please let us know.

We again had a successful day at the annual Rockdale County Master Gardeners Fall Festival on October 3. A very big thank you to **Sheri Pike** of the Riverside Azalea Farm for plants and to **John Callaway, Jim Thornton, Don and Barbara Bloodworth** for manning the booth.

Our next chapter meeting is scheduled for January 17.