

# Chapter News

## Brookside Gardens

William C. Miller III, President

At the chapter annual meeting on December 6, 2009, the speaker was **Jane Kinzie**. Her presentation was entitled *Azaleas—A Local Grower's Perspective*. The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Kinzie Farms, Jane described a little about her background but focused primarily on her extensive interests in matters horticultural. Her presentation was very revealing because few people are aware of the extent to which nursery operations are regulated by government.

Kinzie Farms, established in 1995, provides a full array of design and construction services including deer control and has an excellent selection of azaleas for every conceivable purpose. While Kinzie Farms does not ship plants, a visit to the nursery can easily be arranged, and Jane is a recommended source for landscape-size plants including the azalea cultivars 'Brookside Delight' and 'Bobbi Gail'. The scope of services at Kinzie Farms transcends the usual horticultural activities to include the installation and maintenance of large scale backup power systems. For more information about Kinzie Farms, including their fine selection of azaleas (lots of images), see the Web site at: [kinziefarms.com](http://kinziefarms.com).

Since this was the chapter's annual meeting, there were a number of annual business items. The Brookside Gardens Chapter awarded its 2009 Frederic P. Lee Commendation to **Jane Kinzie** for her many contributions to the chapter and the azalea community (see the picture). 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 more information and a list of the previous recipients, see the Brookside Gardens Chapter's Web site: [www.azaleas.org/bgawards.html](http://www.azaleas.org/bgawards.html).

Stephanie Oberle, director of Brookside Gardens, was present to receive the chapter's donation to the 2010 Green Matters Symposium, *Green Matters: Food for Thought*. The meeting will take place on February 26 at Brookside Gardens from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will involve a full day of speakers focused on the topic of food. Registration is required.

**Bobbi McCeney** presented the treasurer's report on behalf of the treasurer. The report was approved by the membership. **Judy Karpen** presented the slate of officers for 2010. No nominations were made from the floor, and the slate was approved by acclamation. The results were: **William C. Miller III**, president; **Mary Rutley**, vice president; **Roberta Hagen**, secretary; and **Jim McCeney**, treasurer.

It was announced that the 2010 chapter picnic will be on Sunday, June 6 at the home of **Bobbi** and **Jim McCeney** in Laurel, Maryland. The McCeneys have hosted the picnic



Photo William C. Miller III

▲ Jane P. Kinzie of Bethesda, Maryland, was presented the 2009 Frederic P. Lee Commendation at the Brookside Gardens Chapter annual meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2009.

before, and discovering what is new and different in the McCeney garden is an anticipated treat. The picnic will begin at 4 p.m. and members should plan to RSVP by June 1 for last minute suggestions on what to bring. In addition, it is always a good idea to bring a comfortable chair.

There was a motion from the floor by **Dianne Gregg** for the chapter to rejoin the Federation of Garden Clubs. The motion was seconded by **Anne Brooks**. The proposal was discussed and passed. The chapter has been a member of the Federation from time to time especially in the early years when the chapter was somewhat dependent on the Federation for flower-show judges.

There was an excellent "Show and Tell" session with local wildlife photographs, recently received catalogs, a new book on lilacs, and a notice about the upcoming Master Gardeners 10th Spring Mini-Conference on February 20.

The speaker for the February 7 meeting was Jim Dronenburg. The title of his presentation was *Growing Things That Aren't Supposed To Grow Here*. Based on his extensive experience in growing plants in our area, he put to rest a number of widely held beliefs regarding our regional limitations.

The speaker for the April 11 meeting will be **Court Lee**. The title of his talk will be *Classic Glenn Dales And Other Good Growers For The Washington Area*. Court operates a nursery at Boxlee, an historic property on Hillmeade Road just minutes from the famous Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station in Glenn Dale, Maryland. Given his proximity, it was only natural that he would become interested in the Glenn Dale hybrid azaleas. He has an extensive collection of Glenn Dale hybrids and was a participant in the Glenn Dale Preservation Project.



◀ Louisiana Chapter members gather at Margie Jenkins' home to celebrate the season at the annual Christmas Party.

▼ Dale and Roy Constantin help Margie Jenkins complete final food preparations at the Louisiana Chapter's annual Christmas party.

## Louisiana

*Dr. Regina Bracy, Secretary*

The Louisiana Chapter met at **Margie Jenkins'** home on Sunday, December 13 for a Christmas celebration. A short business meeting was held prior to the beginning of festivities to discuss the 2010 ASA Convention that the Louisiana Chapter is hosting. Convention organizer, **Regina Bracy**, gave a report indicating that convention planning was on track. Volunteers were enlisted for various jobs from manning a registration table to helping with plant sales.

After the meeting, the group enjoyed good food, wine, and fellowship. A gift exchange/swap took place after the meal. Each guest was encouraged to bring a gift that reflected his passion or personality. Gifts included interesting plants, homemade jellies, home-grown fruits, and books. A lively swapping of gifts occurred as many plants changed ownership as part of the gift swap.

The next meeting is planned for February to finalize preparations for the 2010 convention.



## Northern Virginia

*Leslie Nanney, Secretary*

The annual winter meeting was held at the home of **Norma Merritt** in Ft. Washington, Maryland, on the banks of the Potomac River. A large gathering of friends and family contributed many different kinds of food to share. We had a lovely time chatting with friends, and a group even gathered around the piano to sing Christmas carols.

A few items of business were attended to, including the election of officers for 2010. The following people were elected: **Eve Harrison**, president; **Rick Bauer**, vice president; **Phyllis Rittman**, treasurer; and **Leslie Nanney**, secretary.

**Phyllis Rittman** reported the results from the plant sale at the national convention in May. Members voted to send \$1,000 to the ASA for use in the general operating fund. We also voted to donate \$2,000 to the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) to support an intern in the azalea collection.

## Oconee Chapter

*Jim Thornton*

The Oconee chapter met January 31 with nine members attending. The meeting was called to discuss the status of the

chapter due to recent vacancies within our executive board. Many aspects of failing membership and lack of local member participation, not only with our chapter but in general among horticultural societies, were discussed.

As a whole, the Oconee Chapter membership seems to be healthy and stable; however, local active membership appears to be a problem. Reasons for this problem were discussed and action items were presented but without any immediate resolution.

Another meeting is scheduled for March 7 to continue discussion. Officer positions remain open.

## Vaseyi

*Suzanne W. Medd*

The annual covered dish luncheon was held on November 15, 2009. **John Brown**, in reference to his presentation on *The Mysteries of Azaleas by Seed* in October, shared some additional information with us. For seed germination a good live sphagnum moss, which has a good biological control, is recommended (the rhodie group of experts swears by this). The dark brown bales of peat moss are dead and not useful for germination. Sphagnum moss by J + L Johnson is available at Jesse Israel & Sons Nursery & Garden Center in Asheville, North Carolina, or on the Internet. If you buy the





▲ Vaseyi President April Sanborn presents the chapter's 2009 Augie Kehr Award to Bob Stelloh.

▼ Vaseyi President April Sanborn presents the chapter's 2009 Augie Kehr Award to Ed Collins.



unmilled live moss, run it through 1/4 inch hardware cloth.

During the business meeting, the chapter approved a \$500 donation to the Bullington Center. Awards Committee chair **Leon Pace** and committee members **Vivian Abney** and **Ken Majer** made presentations to two outstanding members of the Vaseyi Chapter: **Edward W. Collins** and **Robert T. Stelloh**.

**Edward W. Collins** was a founding member and past president of the Vaseyi Chapter. He is also a past president of the Philadelphia Chapter ARS, Pine Barrens Chapter ARS, and Southeastern Chapter ARS. He is also a past ARS District 8 director and was the recipient of the ARS Silver Medal.

In addition to maintaining his almost 8-acre garden, Collins enjoys hiking in search of native plants and presenting lectures.

**Robert "Bob" Stelloh** was the national treasurer for 12 years, and has been the ASA Webmaster since 1999. He was one of the founding members of the Vaseyi Chapter in 2001, and currently serves as chapter treasurer. He also served as registrar for the 2001 and 2008 national conventions hosted by the Vaseyi Chapter. He and his late wife **Denise** were honored to have their garden on tour for both conventions.

The chapter decided that since its name is Vaseyi to use only the picture of our native Vaseyi with the award. Thus, the award consists of a verbal commendation, a very nice print of the Vaseyi azalea from an original water color done by **Don Hyatt**, and a bronze medal.

## President's Letter

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term stability of the Society is placed in the hands of amateurs, backyard gardeners, nurserymen, and educators—in fact anyone, whether he or she grows a single plant or a collection covering acres of ground. We must find ways to encourage a full and free exchange of scions, cuttings, pollen, and seed. We can begin by having a list where people can place cuttings and pollen they are willing to send out or desire.

- As a Society we can enthusiastically support the seed exchange and the Azalea Research Foundation. When the ARS Research Foundation started, most of the money was generated by Esther Berry's seed exchange, and it handed out \$500 awards. Just because the ARF is new and small, does not mean we can't make a significant impact on azalea research. New research will also provide scientific articles for publication in *The Azalean* and benefit the whole Society.
- Finally we cannot get to our destination without a long-range plan or roadmap. As one of my goals, I would like to explore the development of a Long-Range Planning Committee. Its first assignment would be to establish a set of goals for the next five to 10 years. Where should our membership and chapters be in 2015? Then the hard part: what actions are necessary for us to take to achieve these goals?

In closing, I want to extend my sincere greetings to all the membership along with heartfelt thanks for the honor bestowed upon me to be your President. I will continually strive to use the office for the betterment of the Society and meeting the goals for which it was established.

After my session with **John Brown**, **Ed Collins**, and **Bob Stelloh**, and reading several letters written by **Augie Kehr**, I am looking forward to beginning my second year as ASA President. Thank you all very much for one of the best years of my life. I look forward to what next year holds.

*Your Azalea Friend,*  
**Aaron Cook**