

Chapter News

Brookside Gardens

William C. Miller III, President

A funny thing happened on the way to the February chapter meeting—it snowed 42 inches. Due to the publication deadline for the Spring issue of *The Azalean*, the February chapter meeting was reported on before it happened. As it turned out, however, we were obliged to cancel the February meeting in the face of what the weathermen were characterizing as the “Snowstorm of the Century.”

In retrospect, that record setting snowstorm is now the standard against which all future snowstorms will be measured. Though we are still assessing the extensive damage to our gardens, we are pleased that we were able to reschedule Jim Dronenburg such that we will have February in October. Adapt.... Improvise.... Overcome.

Lake Michigan

John Migas, Treasurer

The Lake Michigan Chapter, along with the Tri-State Chapter, will be meeting in late April in preparation for the 2011 national convention which will be held in Evansville, Indiana.

A chapter plant sale will take place on Mother’s Day weekend, and a chapter meeting is scheduled at the home of **John Migas** later in May.

Northern Virginia

Leslie Nanney, Secretary

The chapter meeting scheduled for February was postponed until March because of a record-breaking snowfall. Members had from two to four feet of snow, more than seen in the past 100 years! Every garden sustained broken azalea limbs as well as significant tree damage. Amazingly, when spring finally arrived in northern Virginia many azaleas that were buried under snow recovered and are again standing upright.

The March 7 chapter meeting featured **Bill Johnson**, horticulturist at Hillwood. This magnificent 25-acre estate was the home of Marjorie Merriweather Post. She bequeathed it to the public as a museum and gardens upon her death in 1973. Bill’s presentation, *Hillwood Through the Seasons*, showed the gardens throughout the year, including spring flowering trees underplanted with masses of azaleas, rhododendrons, and camellias.

During the business portion of the meeting, members received copies of the 2010 chapter schedule and budget that were approved by the Executive Committee in January. The chapter also is considering several changes to the by-laws to better align it with the ASA national by-laws. Members voted to send \$2,000 from proceeds of the 2009 national convention to the ASA and \$2,000 to the Friends of the U. S. National Arboretum to support a summer intern to work with the azalea and rhododendron collections.

Eighteen chapter members journeyed to New Orleans in March to attend the 2010 ASA National Convention. While the unusually cold winter resulted in fewer blooming azaleas than typically occur, the beautiful weather and hospitality shown by the Louisiana Chapter ensured we all had a good time.

Oconee Chapter

Jim Thornton, President

The Oconee Chapter met March 7 to discuss its future. It was decided, along with prior comments from members via e-mail and letters, that the chapter should strive to become the viable C=chapter it has been over the years.

Jim Thornton volunteered to serve as President, and **Don** and **Barbara Bloodworth** volunteered to serve as Co-Vice Presidents. **John Callaway** offered to develop a Special Projects Committee. **Fred Vick**, who has been the Treasurer since the formation of the chapter, remains in that position. Members will be asked to approve these positions via e-mail and by letter. The position of Secretary remains open.

Several projects were discussed for the immediate future with emphasis on recruitment and reviving interest of existing members. In addition, the 2013 convention to be hosted by the Oconee Chapter was placed in jeopardy!

The next meeting will be scheduled for early April with the Executive Committee meeting April 2.

Texas Chapter

Pam Fitch, Chapter Member

The Texas Chapter co-sponsored a symposium on March 13 during the annual Nacogdoches Azalea Trail. Dr. William Welch of the Texas A&M Horticulture Department spoke to attendees about using colorful camellias as accents in azalea gardens. He also offered tips on pruning camellias and propagating azaleas. **Barbara Stump** led attendees on a guided tour of the Stephen F. Austin State University Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden.

▼ Dr. William Welch speaks at the Nacogdoches Azalea Trail Symposium.



Photo: Craig Grant