

Chapter News

Brookside Gardens

William C. Miller III

The speaker at the Brookside Garden chapter's annual meeting on December 5 was Carole Bergmann, a forest ecologist and field botanist for the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Best known for her war against exotic, invasive, and pest plants, her presentation was entitled *Wild Flowers of the Maryland Piedmont*.

The current chapter officers agreed to continue for 2011 and were approved by acclamation. The treasurer's report was made and accepted and a copy of the two volume IRRC was shown at the "show and tell" session. The F. P. Lee Commendation for 2010 was awarded to **Yoriko** and **Ming Chin**.

Barbara Bullock, the curator of azaleas and rhododendron at the U.S. National Arboretum was the speaker at the February 6 chapter meeting. Her presentation was entitled *Designing with Azaleas: Tips on Pruning and Placement in the Landscape*.

While we didn't experience the massive snow fall of last winter, we still had a couple of scares, a lot of plant damage, and some pretty significant regional power outages. As a result, generators and power back-up systems are popping up like crocuses.

The speaker for the Sunday, April 3 chapter meeting

▼ At the Brookside Gardens Chapter's 2010 annual meeting on Sunday, December 5th, the Frederic P. Lee Commendation was awarded to Ming (left) and Yoriko Chin of Rockville, Maryland for their many contributions to the chapter.



Photo William Miller III

will be Brookside's own **Phil Normandy**, and the title of his presentation will be *The History of the Azaleas at Brookside Gardens*.

Texas

Barbara Stump

The Texas Chapter has grown, thanks to concerted public relations efforts of **Pam Fitch** and **Mike Stump**, and holding fun meetings like the June cutting picnic. In November, we decided to take a hint from the way the Ozark Chapter of the ARS works—meeting in different places to encourage learning while meeting for the Society. So, 18 Texas Chapter members took a fall trip to Shreveport, Louisiana.

The trip allowed us to visit member **Bud Willis's** nursery, Willis Farm, to see his stock of selected ornamental native and heirloom shrubs, and shade and fruit trees. His plant list includes five varieties of deciduous azaleas including 'Admiral Semmes' and 'Stonewall Jackson' and 13 varieties of evergreen azaleas—Southern Indian, Kurumes, Aromi, Glenn Dale, Beltsville, and Harris hybrids. Of course, the fact that we could purchase plants there helped attract members to the trip.

After a fine lunch arranged by **Jeanette Hotard**, we went into Shreveport to see the gardens around the R.W. Norton Art Gallery. The Gallery has 40 landscaped acres that include 15,000 azaleas and a variety of other flowers including native iris, ginger, cannas, and black-eyed-Susans. The trails allowed us to view many lovely trees and shrubs including sweetspire, dwarf abelia, loropetalum, 'Crimson Queen' and 'Bloodgood' maples, dogwoods and redbuds. **Dr. David Creech** and his wife **Janet** joined us there to answer questions about this garden.

The site is essentially a large ravine, so the trails wound down ridges to a beautiful pond at the bottom (see photo). Another special treat was the special art exhibition: "Ansel Adams: The Masterworks." This collection of 47 stunning black-and-white landscape photographs by Adams (1902-1984) represented about two-thirds of a selection he himself made late in his life to serve as a succinct representation of his life's work.

While this was Mike's final effort to organize the Texas Chapter into a growing chapter, we will continue the theme with other cutting picnics and trips. There are many people in East Texas who love azaleas, and we aim to find them and get them into our Society!

As a service project, the chapter purchased a number of deciduous azaleas from Doremus Nursery in Warren, Texas, for planting in a new garden at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. Thanks to a wonderful gift of Charles R. Mize to Stephen F. Austin State University, this new eight-acre garden is now officially named (by the

In Memory

Michael Miller Stump

A memorial service of witness to the resurrection for Michael M. Stump, 71, was held Wednesday, December 1, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nacogdoches, Texas, with Rev. Steve Newton officiating.

Mike Stump passed away on Sunday, November 28, 2010 in Nacogdoches. He was born September 29, 1939 in Ashland, Kentucky to Harold and Sallie Stump.

He was a graduate of Spencer High School and Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. He earned his MBA from the University of Florida and had a long executive management career in a variety of businesses, including financial software systems, engineering, and contract operations for municipal water and wastewater treatment systems. Since making his permanent home in Nacogdoches in 1999 he had been an active citizen supporting community initiatives. His restoration of two historic homes in Nacogdoches led to involvement in Friends of Historic Nacogdoches, Inc. He also served as president of the Texas Chapter ASA and as an elder in his church home, Westminster Presbyterian Church. His primary interest was people, and he was a dedicated mentor to his children, co-workers, and friends. He will be remembered for his capacity for friendship, sincere encouragement to all, and his intelligent wit, ready humor, and smile as big as Texas.

Mike is survived by his wife, Barbara; sister Dianne Kelley of Hiram, Ohio; daughters Mamie Elizabeth Flechas of Williston, Florida, and Sara Goldberg of Orlando, Florida; and son Michael Vincent Stump of Pearland, Texas. He was his family's joy and treasure.

The family requests memorial gifts be made to the Azalea Research Foundation, c/o James O. Thornton, 884 June Drive, Conyers, GA 30094 or to the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, P.O. Box 13000 SFA Station, Nacogdoches, TX 75962.

▼ Mike Stump posed with "Flat Stanley" during a tour of Margie Jenkins' nursery at the 2010 ASA National Convention in New Orleans.



Photo Barbara Stump



Photo Jeff Abt

▲ Texas Chapter members, all but two new in 2010, and Tom Milner grin for the camera. The azalea gardens weren't in bloom, but now we know we need to come back in the spring.

SFA Board of Regents January 25, 2011) as the Gayla Mize Garden. This honors Ray's late wife, a former ASA member, who was very active in community affairs in Nacogdoches, who was a leader in the effort to start the Nacogdoches Azalea Trail 10 years ago, and who helped connect SFA Gardens with the donor whose endowment supports ongoing development of the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. We are now searching for the "best of the best" deciduous azaleas and ornamental flowering trees for this new garden. Members of the Texas Chapter are helping with mapping and plant labeling and hope to plant the next batch of azaleas next fall.

Azalea City Program Accepting Applications

One of the principal goals of the ASA is to promote the appreciation of azaleas in public and private landscapes. To help achieve that goal, a program was established in early 2004 to find, recognize and certify those municipalities that promote and display azaleas as Azalea Cities.

We invite you to explore the requirements to be recognized and certified as an official Azalea City. In general, successful applicants for Azalea City status will have shown a dedication to highlighting azaleas through proclamations for an Azalea Week, festivals, tours, and the prominent display of azaleas in public gardens and landscapes. The certification period is for five years, contingent upon a continuing azalea emphasis in your municipality. There is no application fee.

For more information on the Azalea City program, including a list of current Azalea Cities, please visit the ASA Web site at www.azaleas.org.