

# Chapter News

## Brookside Gardens

William C. Miller III

The speaker for the Sunday, April 3 chapter meeting was Brookside's own **Phil Normandy**. The title of his presentation was *The History of the Azaleas at Brookside Gardens*. Phil's presentation was enhanced with legacy slides which dated back to the early days of Brookside Gardens. He discussed the general phenomenon of "plant succession" and showed how many of the gardens at Brookside had changed over time. He credited **Emile Deckert**, a founding member of the ASA, with the development of much of the azalea collection at Brookside.

The chapter's 32nd annual flower show was held April 29 to May 1. There was initial concern that we were going to experience a late spring since there was very little in bloom as the show approached. As if on cue, the weather improved just in time, and it was a beautiful show. We had one minor logistical problem which complicated our well established placement process. On Friday morning, Brookside Gardens

▼ Bill Miller standing behind his Best-in-Show entry of 'Annamaria' at the 2011 Brookside Gardens Chapter's 32nd annual flower show at Brookside Gardens on Saturday, April 30.



pre-empted us for a special speaker in the auditorium where our show is staged. This change in procedure created a bit of a log jam because it meant that we had to hold our entries in the adult classroom until the program was over and the auditorium could be setup for our show. To help with our loss of time, Brookside permitted us several hours past the 5 p.m. closing time to complete the placement process. The bottom line — it all worked out. The two panels of judges were ably headed by **Don Voss** and **Emile Deckert** and judging proceeded without incident on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. When the dust cleared, **Bill Miller's** entry of 'Annamaria' was awarded Best-in-Show. Making it a clean sweep, he also was awarded the Sweepstakes Award for the most points (see photo).

At the special request of Brookside Gardens our Brookside Sale was moved up to coincide with the flower show and was expanded to a second day (Saturday and Sunday). It is likely that this arrangement will be the routine for the future. The crowds seemed heavier, but then one has to consider that at one point there was a flower show inside and three independent sales going on inside and outside. Thanks to **Judy Karpen**, **Ming** and **Yoriko Chin**, **Betty Bieberly**, and **Mary Rutley**, the sales at the chapter table did well. White's Nursery was represented by Nancy White and her crew. It was a little awkward in that the grassy area that routinely served as the plant sales area was cordoned off and unavailable due to it having been recently seeded. As a consequence, selling space was quite limited. Still, the sales were quite successful, and a lot of good looking plants found new homes.

The Tilden Sale was Saturday, May 7. This sale, the Saturday before Mother's Day, has been a long standing tradition which began at the Suburban Trust parking lot in Wheaton, Maryland many years ago under the management of the late Ryon Page and eventually found a home at the Tilden Middle School (the former Woodward High School) parking lot located on Old Georgetown Road, just north of the Tuckerman Lane intersection. **Judy Karpen** and **Yoriko** and **Ming Chin** manned the chapter table which always has its share of interesting and exotic (in the good sense of the word) companion plants. Much of the material for the chapter table is donated by members. A small redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) was donated by one of the members this year. Amazingly—no sooner had it been put down but a lady immediately picked it up and bought it. It was in contact with the ground about three seconds.

A chapter picnic was held on Sunday, May 29 at the home of **Janet** and **Bill Miller** in Bethesda, Maryland.

Sunday, September 18 will be the chapter auction at Brookside Gardens. Viewing begins at 10:30 a.m. and the auction begins at 11 a.m.—rain or shine. We have been fortunate in the past and only had a couple of rainy auctions.

Most gardeners are not deterred by a little rain. The plants are first class and extend to the far reaches of the plant kingdom. There is always a new plant that most people are not familiar with, the competition is good natured, and the ultimate prices are a bargain.

Sunday, October 9, will be the next chapter meeting. The speaker will be Molly Ridout and the title of her presentation will be *The History of the William Paca Garden*.

Sunday, December 4 will be the chapter annual meeting and the last activity of the year. We will have the election of officers and the presentation of the F. P. Lee Commendation for 2011. The speaker will be **Bill Miller** and his presentation will be entitled *Nice Books and Pretty Pictures*.

The meetings are open, and anyone may attend. Our schedule of activities is posted on the ASA Web site at <http://www.azaleas.org/bg.html>.

## Lake Michigan

Linda Lanning

On May 21 the Lake Michigan Chapter held a business meeting and luncheon at the residence of **John Migas** in Saugatuck, Michigan. The Tri-State Chapter was invited to attend. The meeting included a review of the convention, election of officers, and planning for upcoming events. The azaleas were blooming and we also enjoyed a tour of John's garden.

## Northern Virginia

Rick Bauer

We're beginning to commence a new year for the Northern Virginia Chapter. The Chapter elected a new slate of officers at our December Holiday Social. I'd like to thank those officers who served last year. It takes a lot of work to plan and implement chapter activities and we appreciate those who volunteer to serve as chapter officers or heads of committees. I'd like to give a special thanks to **Eve Harrison** who served as President for four years and instituted, or reinstituted, many interesting activities for our members.

I'm excited about the program we have for the Chapter this year. We're continuing to implement new and interesting activities for our members. Two of the new additions this year were the Charlottesville garden visit April 13-14 and a visit to the U.S. National Arboretum on April 26. We held our plant sale at Green Springs Garden on May 14 this year as it is closer than Blandy (where we held our sales in 2008/10).

Additionally, we're looking to collaborate with other plant societies and ASA chapters to widen the variety of activities for our members. We have two activities this year in conjunction with the ARS. The first, a plant trip to North Carolina nurseries, was held in March. In October, we are invited to join ARS at Hooper Bald.

Good communications are key to the success of any organization. We continue to produce the Clipper newsletter, however we are supplementing that with monthly email messages to members, supplemental mailings where necessary and monthly updates to our Web page <http://www.azaleas.org/nv.html>.

[www.azaleas.org/nv.html](http://www.azaleas.org/nv.html). The latter is especially useful for conveying last minute changes. I encourage you to visit the site.

## Oconee

Jim Thornton

Members met March 20 with special guest speaker and chapter member **Charlie Andrews**. Charlie presented slides and discussion on the Breedlove azaleas. These azaleas were named after the Breedlove 100-acre farm in Cherokee county, Georgia. In the 1960's, Charlie's father had purchased the place and held until he died in the 1970's. At his father's death, Charlie inherited the farm. As Charlie put it, "I was enamored with the azaleas on the place." Between 1982 and 1997, he took hundreds of photographs of the many spectacular specimens.

Before selling the farm, he transplanted about 120 plants to where they are now thriving at Wild Wood, his and wife, Mardi's current home. Charlie left us with a CD to share.

After refreshments provided by **Barbara Bloodworth** and **John Callaway**, we had a drawing for plants that included native azalea seedlings from **Ken Gohring**.

We concluded the meeting after a short discussion about the 2013 ASA convention.

▼ A Breedlove azalea, named for the 100-acre Breedlove farm in Cherokee county, Georgia.



Photo Charlie Andrews