

Chapter News

Ben Morrison

Harold Belcher

Our Cutting Picnic was held at the home and garden of **Bill and Gabrielle Scott**. Attending the Cutting Picnic were: **Barbara Bullock, Grey Carter, Jim and Lois Duffy, Debra Hughes, Joe Miller, Carol Segree, and Harold Belcher**. **Carol and Dale Flowers** had another engagement and were unable to attend. Barbara was kind enough to play her guitar for us. **Jim and Lois Duffy, Gabrielle Scott and Carol Segree** brought plants to share with the members. The shared plants included an azalea, rhododendrons, iris, and blackberry lilies.

We had a great time, lots of good food and conversation. Gabrielle gave several garden tours for us. Due to the heat, we stayed inside. No business meeting was held. The picnic ran from 2 until 6:45 p.m. A good time was had by all! It's always fun when the members get together.

Louisiana

Regina P. Bracy

The Louisiana Chapter enjoyed good food and company at **Jim Campbell's** place on Sunday, May 15. Jim was the host for the annual crawfish boil, which include boiled crawfish and all the fixings (potato, corn, onions, garlic, and mushrooms). About 30 members enjoyed the warm weather and hospitality found at Jim's place. After the meal, members toured the grounds and greenhouses viewing interesting azaleas, camellias, and other plants.

Northern Virginia

Barry Sperling

The chapter was glad to turn out for a successful plant sale at the Green Spring Gardens on May 14. **Lee McElvain** was the coordinator while **Carolyn and Paul Beck** did a lot of the leg work getting plants from local hybridizers **Bob Stewart** and **Joe Klimavicz**, among other sources. Helping on the day of the sale were **Rick Bauer, Rod and Mary Hoioos, Dan Krabill, David and Patsy Meadows, Sharon Raden and Barry Sperling**.

The annual cutting exchange on July 10th was, as always, much more than an exchange as the **Meadows, Dan Krabill**, and others threw in many potted plants. The pot luck meal was, again, beyond that of many fancy restaurants and **Kay Jackson's** home on the Potomac shoreline, which we briefly took over, was beautiful as Osprey and Bald Eagles soared overhead.

After a great spring and summer we're looking forward to our annual plant sale in September.

Oconee

Jim Thornton

Charles Andrews, a long-time member of ARS and a new member of ASA, was the featured speaker at the chap-



▲ Jim Campbell giving a tour of his shade house during a Louisiana ASA chapter meeting.

▼ Louisiana chapter members enjoying a crawfish boil.



ter's Spring meeting. His presentation focused on the Breedlove azaleas. The Breedlove place was a 100-acre farmstead in Cherokee County. In the 1960s, Charlie's father purchased the farm and held it until his death in the 1970s. At his father's death, Charlie inherited the farm.

Charlie was enamored with the myriad native azaleas on the place, and between 1982 and 1997 he photographed many of the spectacular specimens. Before he sold the Breedlove place in 1998, Charlie transplanted about 120 of the plants to where they are now thriving at Wild Wood, his and Mardi's current home.

Texas

Pam Fitch, Secretary

The Texas chapter held its annual membership meeting in July at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. **Barbara Stump** presented a delightful slide show from the 2011 national convention that was held in Indiana. It was also reported that Barbara is currently authoring a book on

the use of azaleas in Nacogdoches. It was suggested that the chapter may want to purchase a number of the books to use as a promotional tool.

Several years ago Nacogdoches was certified as the ASA's first national Azalea City. It is now time to re-apply for certification. A committee is in the process of completing the re-certification paperwork to submit to ASA.

Interim Chapter President **Jeff Abt** announced that Nacogdoches will host the national ASA convention in 2015. **Bart Brechter** volunteered to host the Fall chapter meeting at Bayou Bend in Houston. He will present a program on the garden's azalea research project.

Vaseyi

Suzanne W. Medd, Secretary

In February, President **April Sanborn** led a discussion on "Azaleas, Their Care, Feeding, and Enjoyment." She noted that there are many ways to succeed and even more ways to fail. The discussion, however, centered on everyone's successes!

Charles Andrews of Atlanta was our March speaker. He was introduced to beautiful native azaleas many years ago by his first love, trout fishing, when he saw azaleas along the streams. Like many of us, he had a garden with a single peak spring bloom and not much flowering after that. Over the years, Charlie came to the realization that native azaleas along with companion plants could give the garden multiple peaks of interest.

So he posed a question to our members, "How can we have multiple peaks through the late spring and well into summer?" Charlie's presentation (so thorough and beautiful) showed us how he is tackling the problem!

We voted to fund \$250 for azalea brochures needed by the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville. The brochure explains the Azalea Trail and shares the ASA and ARS We sites. This is a joint venture with the SE-ARS.

In April, there was a combined meeting of Southeastern Chapter-ARS and our Vaseyi Chapter. Our speaker was Alan Mizeras, a Senior Master Gardener, and a principal organizer of the Henderson County Native Plant Rescue Group in September 2005. All present received a copy of two books published in 2010 by the US Forest Service : *A Management Guide for Invasive Plants in Southern Forests* and *A Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests*. His top ten least desirable plants were all too familiar! He gave us some valuable tips to manage or get rid of them.

We are so proud of **Dick Bir**, a well known Vaseyi Chapter member, who has been named the 2011 recipient of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award. This is the American Horticultural Society's most prestigious award, and one of the 12 Great American Gardeners Awards the AHS presents annually to individuals, organizations, and businesses that represent the best in American gardening. He is the North Carolina State University Extension Horticulture Specialist Emeritus in Mills River, North Carolina. A full article explaining the award criteria and Dick's impressive career appeared in the April 18th issue of the Hendersonville Times-News, on the Web at <http://www.blueridgenow.com/>

article/20110418/NEWS/110419822 or www.blueridgenow.com then search on "Richard E. Bir."

On April 6th Vaseyi members, **John Brown**, **Bob** and **Audrey Stelloh** joined others in the brush removal around the unique *R. calendulaceum* azaleas growing on Hooper Bald. Jim Brant (Mid-Atlantic Chapter of ARS) has spearheaded this project since 2007. Azalea Chapter-ARS of Atlanta helped on this project. **Tom Wright** and **George McLellan** plus 14 Sierra Club volunteers were there. Everyone was pleased so much was accomplished this year.

Bob and **Audrey Stelloh's** beautiful garden was open to Vaseyi members and friends on May 7th. Last year, Audrey met Bob on Hooper Bald. Now they are a married couple and Bob's beautiful wife, Audrey, is a Vaseyi member too!

Our tour to East Fork Nursery in Sevierville, Tennessee, was our May meeting. Vaseyi member **Vivian Abney** grows and sells plants there to excite most everyone. She is producing selected Henry Skinner native azaleas from tissue cultures in her lab! It was very impressive. Her choice spruce grafts, dwarf conifers, hardy camellias, hollies, crape myrtles, and native azaleas are very sought after. As always, Vivian had a large wagon full of special gift plants for us to take home to our gardens. Thanks, Vivian!

New Members

At Large

Bob Erdelan
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