

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](http://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

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