

Chapter News

Alabamense Chapter by **Patrick Thompson**

We had a great spring field trip this year. Instead of tracking down wild specimens, we opted to seek out the most recently described native azalea species in garden settings. The day started at Callaway Gardens where we were joined by the Azalea Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Throughout the garden we enjoyed the large mature specimens of Red Hills azaleas, *Rhododendron colemanii*. The species was named for Georgia nurseryman S. D. Coleman who sold the Callaways many of the plants we observed in bloom during this first stop on our field trip. For the second half of the trip we went back across the border into Alabama to see azaleas blooming at the Donald E. Davis Arboretum at Auburn University. It was graduation day on campus, and the College of Science and Mathematics was generous enough to invite our whole group to enjoy their barbecue picnic! Some of the red hills azaleas held onto their flowers just long enough for this group to see them. We also saw *R. viscosum*, *R. cumberlandense*, and many other Southeastern native plants.



Central Carolinas Chapter by **Chris Wetmore**

Upcoming events:

September 19, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - **Dr. Joe Coleman** will be giving a presentation on Hurricane Creek Native Azaleas in Lumpkin County, Georgia. These naturally occurring hybrids have many exceptional forms

and a wide range in color variation. This is also our annual cutting exchange. CPCC Cato Campus, 8120 Grier Road, Charlotte, North Carolina, in the Horticulture Building.

November 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Annual banquet and silent plant auction. Stan Southerland will be giving a presentation on rhododendron hybridizing and heat tolerant rhododendrons. Lunch to follow the meeting. CPCC Cato Campus, 8120 Grier Road, Charlotte, North Carolina, in the Horticulture Building.

For more info on any events visit
www.centralcarolinasazaleasociety.org

Louisiana Chapter by **Allen Owings**

The Louisiana Chapter had a good number of members that enjoyed the national convention in Nacogdoches, TX. We are also pleased to welcome new members – **Martina Ellis** and **Nancy Ellis** of Amite, LA, **Wayne and Cheryl Stromeyer** of Baton Rouge, LA and **Eddie Martin** of Belle Chasse, LA.

Our spring meeting was held on Saturday May 23rd at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station. The station recently hosted the 3rd annual Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden Horticulture Lecture Series featuring speakers Rick Webb of Louisiana Growers in Amite, LA and Mark Windham, plant pathology professor from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Crawfish were enjoyed by everyone and members toured the Margie Jenkins Garden and Piney Woods Garden at the station. Discussion was held about the Louisiana chapter submitting details to the national board of directors in regard to possibly hosting the ASA National Convention in 2017. A donation of \$1000 was made to the LSU AgCenter for the gardens in Hammond. Our fall meeting will be a barbeque at the station in October.

Northern Virginia Chapter by **Rick Bauer**

We have had a busy spring. A number of our chapter members attended the national convention in Nacogdoches and had a great time. On 12 April we had a chapter meeting where Mary Olien gave us an update on Green Spring Gardens and the White Garden. She detailed the history and possible future of both gardens. Our chapter has been contributing to these gardens and



the Title I program (subsidies for garden programs for lower income children) over the past several years. Mary's talk included discussing the impact our donations have had. We also had a plant exchange which is always popular with our members.

In April we had an azalea sale in Charlottesville in conjunction with Garden Week and in May we had a sale at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. These sales allow us to raise funds, make the public aware of our chapter and promote our Legacy Program by featuring the hybrids of our member hybridizers. Both sales were very successful and we also gained six new members at the sales.

Some of our members also went to **Mike and Debbie White's** nursery in Germantown, MD for a picnic on 17 May. Mike and Debbie had invited a number of plant societies to visit the nursery and purchase some of their beautiful azaleas. It was also a good opportunity for members of the 2016 convention planning committee to meet.

Join us, if you can, for the annual Cutting Exchange on July 26 and the annual auction on September 26. See our website, created and maintained by **Paul Beck**, at www.nv-asa.org for details about both of these events where you are welcome to join us!

Reverend John Drayton Chapter by **Linda Wood**

In February we discussed our trip to Callaway Gardens in Georgia. Details were coming together and members getting on board. Our speaker for the evening was John Barrineau from Stacks Nursery.

At the March meeting we lined up the schedule of activities for the spring months.

Our trip to Callaway on April 17-19 was a great success with 15 members attending. We were fortunate to be given a tour of the entire gardens by Ernest Koone who knows the gardens well. We also visited the Little White House, Roosevelt's home nearby. Unfortunately it was a rainy weekend so we did not walk the gardens as we would have liked and we had to cancel our visit with Mr.

Koone to his Lazy K Nursery for Sunday. In spite of the rain a good time was had by all. Thanks to **Tom and Mary Ann Johnson** for arranging and hosting our trip.

In early May the Azalea Society members were invited to join the Camellia Society for a picnic held at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens. We shared great food followed by a fun plant auction. After the picnic **Tom Johnson** was available to assist our members with taking native cuttings.

At our May meeting new officers were announced for next year. They are: **Lynda Creek**, President; **Tom Johnson**, Vice President; **Linda Wood**, Treasurer.

A Saturday in late June is set aside for an opportunity to take cuttings of evergreens.

We will take the summer off and start up again at the end of August.

Vaseyi Chapter by **Audrey Stelloh**

The Vaseyi Chapter was invited to join the Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society for their annual March meeting at the Chariot Restaurant in Hendersonville. First on the agenda was a silent auction of 43 choice plants, many of which were donated by Vaseyi members. Then we were treated to a delicious banquet and socializing. Our speaker was Ed Davis, Horticultural Director of the UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens.

On April 18 we had garden tours. The Stelloh garden was visited by about 15 garden enthusiasts who rarely get to see the early blooming azaleas, rhododendrons, trilliums, anemone, Virginia bluebells and countless other spring wildflowers which have proliferated over the years. Despite the start of rain, most attendees trekked to view a neighbor's artfully designed conifer and rock garden.

Several members accepted the invitation by the Mr. Maple Japanese Maple Nursery to attend their May 25 open house celebration. We were all impressed with the beauty and selection of over 1,000 maple cultivars.

In July or August, members are invited to return to the Stelloh garden for azalea cuttings. By appointment, 828-697-9959.

Our meetings are open to all garden lovers, so feel free to come. On September 27, local newspaper garden columnist and Vaseyi member, **Betty Montgomery**, will present a program based on her new book *A Four-Season Southern Garden*. Betty will share her 40 years of gardening experience in Zone 7 with emphasis on plants that flourish and are colorful. On November 8, **Lindy Johnson**, co-founder of Appalachian Native Plants Nursery, will teach us *How to Grow Native Azaleas from Seed*. This is also our annual potluck luncheon, and seed exchange. Lindy reminded us last year that many people have asked for seed from evergreen azaleas, which should be ripe in late summer.