

Chapter News

Lake Michigan Chapter

John Migas, Past Lake Michigan and ASA President

Over the past few years the chapter officers have tried on numerous occasions to host meetings, plant sales, garden tours, cutting parties, e-mail requests, and holiday parties only to have very little if any response or participation from the chapter members. The past and present chapter officers have served numerous terms and have been hoping that others would step up and volunteer to fill a spot.

It's time for the Lake Michigan Chapter members to make a decision on whether we will continue to exist as a chapter with the Azalea Society of America. The present officers have been trying to keep the chapter alive, but there comes a time to accept reality. As officers, we have reached out to the group with e-mails with very few replies. For now we will continue, but we need to hear from you, Lake Michigan Chapter members.

In the future, if an e-mail is sent to you, please respond with a simple: Yes, no, I'm too busy, or you can even respond with a "don't bother me," which will not offend us. If you feel that the chapter is no longer in your best interest, please let us know. You can send your comments to Chapter President **Jim Ellis** (ellisj@chatermi.net) or **John Migas** (azalea-john@yahoo.com).

Northern Virginia Chapter

Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary

The Northern Virginia Chapter kicked off the fall season with a successful auction in September. The enthusiastic group responded to auctioneer **Paul Davis'** entreaties by bidding up the prices. **Paul Beck's** intricate technological solutions allowed the outdoor fixed-price sale and the indoor auctions (silent and verbal) to be fully integrated with a database of plants, even allowing credit card sales. Enough money was made so that the chapter newsletter ("The Clipper") would be funded and also allow for major contributions to selected charities.

The October meeting featured an explanation of "Bonsai Art" by **Dr. Joseph Gutierrez**. He brought a fine selection of azalea plants he is using, explaining the theory of the art of bonsai along with demonstrating the actual practice of it with the plants shown in various stages of development.

We're looking forward to our holiday party in December and a full slate of activities in 2016, including the 2016 joint ASA/ARS Convention. Feel free to join us!

Texas Chapter

Sherrie Randall, Secretary

Our fall meeting was held at the Liberty Bell wine bar in downtown Nacogdoches. We understand this was also a favorite meeting spot for some of the 2015 Nacogdoches ASA National Convention attendees. Our working lunch/meeting was extremely productive. We are planning a November deciduous azalea planting in the Nacogdoches Master Gar-

dener's Demonstration Garden. Our 2016 spring meeting will be down south at the Bayou Bend Gardens in Houston, Texas, during their Azalea Trails timeframe.

Several chapter members are already talking about their plans to attend the National Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia, in April. A proposed fall meeting would take us northeast to the Willis Farm & Native Plants, in Doyline, Louisiana. **Bud Willis** is a Texas Chapter member and a local grower of native plants and Louisiana's largest producer and collector of native azaleas.

Vaseyi Chapter

Audrey Stelloh, President

On February 28th, Alan Mizeras, local native plant expert, will give a slide show on his "Favorite Native Plants." This should help with "gardening withdrawal" symptoms caused by cold winter weather.

On November 8th, we had our annual year-end pot luck luncheon with BBQ and chicken provided by the chapter, with large turnout of 35 people. We invited members of the Southeastern Chapter of the ARS to join us, and several had such a good time that they decided to join the Azalea Society. Many people came early to help set up and stayed late to help clean up.

J Jackson and **Lindy Johnson** gave a demonstration showing how they have successfully grown thousands of seedlings of native azaleas and other plants. Two important points they made are to start with a good quality peat called Fafard® "Grower Mix" and to mist the seeds with a solution of fungicide. (Actinovate® is the brand they like the best.) **J** and **Lindy** donated about 50 plants and seed growing materials to the drawing we always have.

We then gave out the Kehr Award, named for one of the founding members of the Vaseyi Chapter, Augie Kehr, to **J Jackson** and **Lindy Johnson** for their contributions to the ASA and leadership in promoting growing, use of, and knowledge about deciduous and native azaleas.

In giving this Kehr Award, the Vaseyi Chapter remembers one of their most knowledgeable horticulturist members, who worked with hybridizing azaleas, magnolias, and other plant collections.

▼ Audrey Stelloh presented the Kehr Award to J Jackson and Lindy Johnson.

On March 20th, Vaseyi will have a joint meeting with the Southeastern chapter of the ARS. **Hal Booth** will give a presentation on "Broadleaf Evergreens."

