

Chapter News

Central Carolinas Chapter

Sandy Yakob—Newly Elected President

Although we still have a bit of ice on the ground here in the Carolinas, we are getting ready for spring! This year we are streamlining our meeting dates and are planning to host a plant sale as well as our first member garden tour. We're also updating our communication methods to be able to engage our membership better and build community. Members in the chapter come from both Carolinas, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2016! Visit our Web-site at <http://www.centralcarolinazaleasociety.org/>

Louisiana Chapter

*Allen D. Owings, Professor and Research Coordinator
LSU AgCenter, Hammond Research Station*

October Meeting

The Louisiana Chapter held a barbeque in the Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station on Saturday October 3rd. Horticulture professor Allen Owings prepared chicken, sausage and pork chops. President Peggy Cox led the meeting, with 20 members attending. Business items included a discussion of the Christmas party planned for the home of Peggy and Doc Cox in December. New officers for the coming year were discussed. The chapter has discussed with ASA national president J Jackson hosting the national ASA convention in the spring of 2017. If the national board approves, the

chapter will move forward with plans and a tentative agenda to present at the spring convention in Williamsburg.

December Meeting

On December 14, 2015, the Louisiana Chapter of the ASA held their annual Christmas Party at Peggy and Doc Cox's house in Independence. Thank you Peggy and Doc for hosting this and supplying the roast, gumbo and drinks. Members brought other casseroles, desserts, and drinks.

We also had our winter business meeting. Buddy Lee took pictures as usual of groups and individuals. Margie Jenkins and Peggy Cox presented to Allen Owings (representing the LSU AgCenter) a check for \$1,000 to be used for maintenance and improvements to the Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden at the Hammond Research Station. The donation was previously approved at the spring meeting. By the way, did you see we had a picture of the Spring 2015 crawfish boil in *The Azalean*? Our new president is Allen Owings. This will be Allen's third term as president of the Louisiana Chapter. Thank you to Peggy Cox for serving the past four years as president.

Allen mentioned he is working on making Hammond, Louisiana, an ASA Azalea City. We are hosting the 2017 National Azalea Society Convention as was approved by members at the spring meeting. Allen is working on hotel and meeting agenda items. The dates are March 30-April 2, 2017. It was decided that azalea cuttings had to be started soon. It takes thousands of cuttings to get a reasonable amount that will root well. Volunteers are needed to help cut and stick (propagate) the cuttings at various members' nurseries. After rooting they will be planted in 4" pots

- ▼ Louisiana Chapter members left to right: John Thornton, Allen Owings, Larry Brown, Flo Brown, Marjorie Dubea, Peggy Cox, Vincent Ciolino, Roy Constantin, Dale Constantin, Kay Wolfe, Louis Wolfe, Martina Ellis, Yan Chen and Doc Cox.



for sale at the convention. This is an excellent way to get experience making cuttings and to bond with other members. Allen will send an email out as soon as he finds out where and when this work is to be done. Also, some members said they could supply some larger azalea plants.

We have five new members, four from the Lafayette area: Welcome to June Faul, Cheryl Perret, Cindy Chaney Wiley, Sally LeBourgeois, and May Vidacovich. Lafayette, Louisiana, is also interested in being an ASA Azalea City and is restarting their azalea trail program. Welcome to all these new chapter members! Allen is trying to arrange an azalea meeting in Lafayette for this spring. Our spring crawfish boil will be held in May at the LSU AgCenter in Hammond.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Barry Sperling—Corresponding Secretary

After the successful plant auction and the fine lecture by Dr. Joseph Gutierrez on Bonsai, the year finished with the annual Holiday Social. Carolyn and Paul Beck again offered their house and 31 of us filled it nicely. There was more than enough food and drink for everyone and, after a lot of eating and socializing, president Rick Bauer chaired the business meeting.

Rick and Paul Beck were reelected president and treasurer, respectively, and we were happy to welcome two new officers: Barb Kirkwood as vice president and Joanne Neckel as the secretary. Susan Bauer has a full workload taking care of the older issues of *The Azalean* and their digitization and has taken on the task of getting the "Clippers" printed and mailed, which your corresponding secretary really appreciates!

Plant sales have provided sufficient funding for large donations, similar to last years: \$2200 to Green Spring Gardens for an intern to work on the White Estate, \$1000 to Green Spring for their Title I program for underprivileged children, \$1000 to the National Arboretum, and \$1000 to the Norfolk Botanical Garden (which is on the tour list for the upcoming convention).

The spring schedule looks busy with a March 20th meeting and speaker, the April 20th-24th convention partially sponsored by our chapter, the member garden tours from April 30th – May 8th, a late May tour of the Bonsai collection at the National Arboretum led by Dr. Joseph Gutierrez, and the annual cutting exchange on July 10th.

Our Web-site, created and administered by Paul Beck, has the full year's schedule, information on the coming convention, plant photographs, and links to much more, so visit us at: www.nv-asa.org.

Texas Chapter

Mary Beth Hagood—Chapter President

Members of the Texas Chapter of the Azalea Society of America met Friday, November 20, to plant deciduous azaleas in the Nacogdoches Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden located on the corner of East Main and University.



Photo Barry Sperling

▲ Barbara Krabill, Diane Marcus and Susan Bauer share a meal during the Northern Virginia Chapter's holiday social at the home of Paul and Carolyn Beck.

▼ Texas Chapter members who helped with the planting include Nancy Niehaus, Mary Beth Hagood, Don Parsons, Sherrie Randall, Harold Hall, Barbara Stump, and Master Gardener representative, Sylvia St. Andry.



Photo Nancy Niehaus

The deciduous azaleas ranged in color from orange to pink to yellow. They were grouped by color and placed in established beds to accent plants that were already there. The project was made possible by Master Gardener Sylvia St. Andry.

The entire membership of the Texas Chapter was invited to participate, but due to other obligations and the time involved in travel, those in Nacogdoches were the only ones who were able to attend.