

Chapter News and New Members

Also check the ASA website for further information and photos of activities. Most chapters have hot-links to their chapter names under the [About Us](#) page.

Alabamense

Patrick Thompson—President—via Facebook

The Alabamense Chapter invited a wide range of gardeners to join them at the AU Davis Arboretum. About 45 people attended to see Charlie Andrews' presentation on the azaleas of Hurricane Creek. Chapter members were joined by Master Gardeners, local plant enthusiasts, and students and faculty from Auburn. The presentation started with a whimsical invitation from Andrews' to step right up and feast our eyes on the wonders of this amazing population of azaleas. The genetic combinations and recombinations in Hurricane Creek have resulted in an eye popping array of forms that the crowd was able to enjoy through photos shown during the meeting. Afterwards a tour of the Arboretum gave us a chance to enjoy several wild species and garden hybrids in bloom. Both children and parents enjoyed the event. New members: Melissa and William Bice, Wetumpka, AL; Steve Sims, Frisco City, AL.

Ben Morrison

Budne Reinke, President

More news coming next issue, but Harold Belcher, the chapter secretary reported June 8 that the Ben Morrison Chapter is back up and running after a get together luncheon that turned into a reorganizational meeting. Their roster now shows 30 ASA members. Well done!

Central Carolinas

Sandy Yakob, President

On March 19 the chapter had its kickoff meeting for the year. The newest members are new chapter twins, Nathan and Lily Long. John and Sarah are the new proud, and tired, parents. On April 30 chapter members toured the colorful garden of chapter member Ken Griffith.

The chapter will have a cutting exchange in July. Please visit www.centralcarolinaszaleasociety.org for more info. New members: William and Heidrun Erwin, Durham, NC; Diane Gajewski, Indian Trail, NC; Barbara Geier, Berkeley Lake, GA.

Louisiana

The chapter is very busy planning the 2017 convention. New members: Catherine Broussard, Sunshine, LA; Stephen Fussell, Little Rock, AR.

Northern VA

Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary

The Northern VA Chapter held a joint meeting with the Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS on March 20th. 48 people attended as members of other plant societies, such

as the Daylily Society, also came along to hear Martha Brettschneider speak on "The Garden as Mindfulness Mentor: How Digging in the Dirt Brings Focus to Mind, Spirit and Camera." Ms. Brettschneider was good enough to donate several copies of her new book, "Blooming Into Mindfulness," as door prizes. As usual there were goodies galore and a plant exchange to complement the conversation with new and old friends.

With the coming of spring we will be enjoying the joint ASA/ARS convention in Williamsburg that the chapter is co-sponsoring, then visiting gardens in the DC area, planning a sale at Green Spring Gardens in May, enjoying a tour of the Bonsai collection at the National Arboretum led by Joe Gutierrez and then another get-together on July 10th for our annual cutting exchange. Check out details on our activities on the website: www.nv-asa.org, maintained in professional detail by Paul Beck.

New members, three from a local plant sale after the convention: Mary Sue Butch, Katonah, NY; Thomas Duling, Woodbridge, VA; Goshen Farm (Jessica Teague and Donny Gilman), Gloucester, VA; Elisha Gregg, Burke, VA; Ralph Habegger, Reston, VA; Barbara Hambrook, Yorktown, VA; Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden (Janet Woody), Richmond, VA; Lorna Hanson, Gloucester, VA; Brenda Jourdan, Alexandria, VA; Eric & Sue Oesterling, New Alexandria, PA; Harry Rissetto, Falls Church, VA; Kathleen Schloeder, Alexandria, VA; Francis Urbany, McLean, VA; Steven Wright, Devon, PA. The chapter now has 101 members!

Rev. John Drayton

New members: Stacy Andrews, Mount Pleasant, SC; John C. Calhoun, Westerville, OH; Karen and Todd Lucht, Charleston, SC.

Texas

Mary Beth Hagood, President

The Texas Chapter of the Azalea Society of America held its 2016 Spring meeting on Wednesday, March 2, at Bayou Bend Gardens in Houston. Seventeen had signed to attend the event, and for the first time, members welcomed attendees from southern Texas counties.

The event was a treat for all who attended: the weather provided a perfect spring atmosphere; azaleas everywhere on the location were in partial bloom, while the camellias were finalizing their show; the spring blooming trees, including redbuds and deciduous magnolias, provided beautiful canopies while showy pink tulips covered spaces on the ground in full color.

Members were guided through the gardens by Texas Chapter vice-president and curator for Bayou Bend Gardens, Bart Brechter. Bart gave many historic details about the origin of and planting of azaleas at Bayou Bend, Miss Ima Hogg's (the owner's) dedication to and later gift of the home and gardens and collections at Bayou Bend to the Museum

of Fine Arts in Houston. He also provided advice about planting and care of azaleas. Each person present received a choice azalea that is also grown in the Bayou Bend gardens. Also, azaleas were donated to garden clubs for fund raiser auctions.

The next chapter meeting will be May 21, 11:00 a.m., at the home of Sherrie Randall. The meeting will involve rooting azalea cuttings for use in plant sales for the chapter. For this fall, a meeting is being planned for a visit to a grower's (Robert Thau's in Jasper, Texas) for a tour and talks about azaleas and their needs. Also on the agenda will be the election of officers for the coming year. New members: Laraine Hutzell, Brookeland, TX; Charles and Sharon Kerr, Jasper, TX; Rick Lewandowski, Orange, TX.

Tri-State

New members: James and Jamie Bartlett, Mt. Carmel, IL; James and Andra DeHaven, West Hazleton, IN.

Vaseyi

Audrey Stellob, President

The chapter had two speakers for February and March. The February speaker was Alan Mizeras, a local native plant aficionado. Alan explained that he formed a native plant rescue group to salvage plants in areas destined for development. When bulldozers scrape a woodland or destroy a wetland, a whole intricate ecosystem is lost. Rescuers can save only a small portion of the plants on that site, but it is the only option when habitats face certain destruction. He showed us a slide show of beautiful native plants in order of emergence.

Our March speaker was at a joint meeting with the Southeast Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Hale Booth, Azalea Society Research Fund chairman, put on a great presentation on "Broadleaf Evergreens." He showed many slides of beautiful and sometimes rare evergreen plants and listed sources for finding them. New Members: Dr. Mary Burch and Dr. Jon Bailey, Tallahassee, FL; Alan Mizeras, Hendersonville, NC; Jerry Neff, Hendersonville, NC; Susan Pfeiffer, Horse Shoe, NC; David Starnes, Oak Ridge, TN.

At-large Members

Charles Dhyse and Elizabeth Boogusch, Camden, ME; William & Maria Cooper, Dover, DE; Linda Derkach, Qualicum Beach, British Columbia; Frederick Findlay, Littleton, MA; Bryan Harvey, Rogers, AR; Donald Meeker, Walnut Creek, CA; Marilyn Michie-Grist, Greenville, SC; André Morency, Trois-Pistoles, Quebec; Gerald O'Dell, Phoenixville, PA; Elaine Sedlack, Eugene, OR; Michael Sellers, Lexington, TN; Marilyn S. Thomas, Mount Vernon, IN.

This represents 41 new members who have joined since January 1, 2016. We hope to hear more chapter news so we can focus the Fall 2016 issue on chapter events and ideas. Please send your news to theazalean@gmail.com by August 1, 2016.

Recognizing Generous ASA Members

By Paul A. Beck, Treasurer —Oak Hill, Virginia

I would like to recognize and thank the following members who made donations to the Operating Fund of the Azalea Society of America in 2016 by paying dues in excess of the \$30 annual regular amount or by making direct payments to the ASA.

We have three categories for donations – Contributing (payment of \$50 to \$99 for the year); Supporting (\$100 to \$199), and Endowing (\$200 or more). These payments provided more than 5 percent of our income and are very important in carrying out the work of the ASA. My apologies if I missed anyone.

Contributing Members

Parker Andes	Pender Nursery, Inc.
Irene Aslan	Gregory Peterson
Brian Barr	Jim & Bethany Plyler
BoxLee Azaleas	Shane Roop
Stanley Brown & Kitty Gay	Cecil & Gloria Settle
Sandra Dugan	Jo Ann Smith
Bill Elliott	Roger A. Thompson
Marianne & Bruce Feller	Supporting Members
Pam Fitch	Louis J. Appell, Jr
Trish & Kevin Gendron	Stephen Ash
Ken & Delores Gohring	Virginia & Samuel Burd
Dianne & James Gregg	Suzi and Nelson Du Rant
Dr. Joseph Gutierrez	Betsy Ellis
Harold and Caryl Hall	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth E. Graham
Nancy & Herbert Hargroves	Dan & Barbara Krabill
Ella Ruth Harris	Barbara Stump
Bob & Lisa Head	Doug Torn
Tom & Mary Ann Johnson	Margaret Vogel
Charles & Sharon Kerr	J. David Wertz
Dr. Alan R. Kilvert	Endowing Members
Donna Kuhn	Paul & Carolyn Beck
Larry Miller	Chen Nien-Chou
Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Jay Murray	

Recognizing Other Donations

In addition to the donations as part of membership renewal, the ASA has also received the following special donations, for which we are very grateful.

In memory of Madeline Cosby
Paul & Carolyn Beck

Azalea Research Committee:
David & Virginia Banks
Dolan Gardens
Karel Bernady