

Chapter News

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

The chapter has been sowing seeds to rejuvenate previous rejuvenation efforts. A seed swap is being planned for a fall meeting, and Auburn University's Donald E. Davis Arboretum's new curator Morgan Beadles is very interested in the ASA and azaleas.

Ben Morrison

Harold Belcher, Secretary

The chapter has been busy since it was regrouped by president Budne Reinke and others this past June. Other officers are: Rosa McWhorter, vice president; Harold Belcher, secretary; Dale Flowers, treasurer; and "Azalea Alert" newsletter editor Harold Belcher. September 7th was the members' luncheon and plant exchange to which NVA Chapter members were invited, and Ben Morrison members were invited to share NVA Chapter's September 17th azalea and daylily auction and sale in Springfield, VA. The event was a joint venture between NVA-ASA and the Northern Virginia Daylily Society and included both a silent auction and live azalea auction of special plants!

Lake Michigan

John Migas, President

Since hosting the 2011 National Convention held in Evansville, IN, we have not had much activity to report. As of this summer the Lake Michigan Chapter has been in the rebuilding stages. Many key members who were very active, always volunteering, and seemed to always be present at meetings and events have either moved out of town or just simply gone MIA. In the future our present members hope to rebound from the chapter's silence over the past few years. Recent participation has been at it's all time low, but we will continue to build.

Northern VA

Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary

The national convention was a highlight of the year and our chapter was one of the sponsors, with a large number of members volunteering some (or a lot of) time to allow it to run smoothly.

While the rains effectively washed out potential garden tours in late April and early May, the annual Greenspring plant sale eluded the raindrops, helping to fund the newsletter and donations to worthy causes. The regular July cutting exchange was joined by members from the Ben Morrison Chapter and, as usual, Joe Coleman came up from Georgia to visit and further his collection. Carolyn Beck held a detailed class in handling and planting cuttings

after the exchange. Barb Kirkwood came up with a brilliant idea and created a book of pictures, donated by attendees, of 2016 convention highlights. This was presented to the two chairs, Rick Bauer and Don Hyatt, in appreciation for their work, spanning years, in making the convention one of the best ever.

Looking ahead to September, the annual auction and plant sale September 17th also involved sales from the Daylily Society and should be well attended. Once again Paul Beck's computer expertise will allow barcode reading of the plants for fast sales and credit card purchases. On October 23 Dr. Paulette Royt will give a talk on "Life in the Soil", discussing the myriad plants and animals that contribute to the success of larger plants, such as azaleas. After such a taxing year the holiday social on December 4th will be a relaxing way to end our activities and look forward to a fine 2017.

Ending this record on a down note, last summer saw the passing of Don Voss, an active member and lecturer who contributed his time, editing, and organizational skills to both the ARS and ASA. He also will be missed at the US National Arboretum where his work with the plant collection was invaluable. We all are thankful for your dedication, Don!

Rev. John Drayton

Miles Beach, ASA Director

As most of you know the heat and lack of rain through most of the summer caused a significant drop in rooting azalea cuttings in our mist house. The mist house controller stopped working and many of our azalea cuttings died as a result. We still had our summer meeting with soup and salad for our meal. It was wonderful that no one brought soup due to the hot weather, but we did have an abundance of wonderful salads. Those who had rooted cuttings that managed to survive were able to pot them up and take them home for more personal care. We discussed taking seeds from the evergreen azaleas, which would take place at our first fall meeting, so our members can learn how to identify seed pods and how to have a successful take rate. All in all, the meeting was very successful but with less than normal attendance due to the heat.

Texas

Sherrie Randall, Secretary

Our fall meeting will be held September 24 at member Robert Thau's nursery in Jasper, Texas. Our business meeting will include election of officers for 2017, discussion of upcoming events, future meeting sites, and members' new business suggestions. Robert joined the ASA for the Williamsburg convention and brought back many plants. His nursery, Nature's Way, has over 300 azaleas and 100 Japanese maples laid out in meticulously maintained beds. He is a prolific propagator and will give us a hands-on demonstration.



▲ Vaseyi group visiting Biltmore Gardens (left to right): Audrey Stelloh, Susan Guest, Suzanne Medd, Wes Burlingame, Jerry Neff, Juanita Lambert, Larason Lambert, Andy Whipple.

Vaseyi

Audrey Stelloh, President

Vaseyi Chapter had two field trips in April and one in May. The first was to East Fork Nursery in Sevierville, TN, where the fabulous plantswoman Vivian Abney raises a huge selection of deciduous azaleas. Many of the azaleas are propagated by tissue culture by Vivian. She also sells conifers, camellias and other shrubs. Thirteen happy members came away with carloads of plants.

The second trip was to see the beautiful collection of prize winning deciduous azaleas in Ray Head's garden in Rutherfordton, NC. The mature blooming azaleas were awe-inspiring. Ray has many years of experience and expertise with raising azaleas and was happy to share his plants and growing tips with all of the attendees. We also went to Plants-A-Plenty Nursery in Forest City, NC, owned by Wayne Hutchins. He has a mature display garden with many native azaleas, ferns, and rhododendrons. Many plants were available for purchase.

The May field trip was organized by the native azalea expert Wes Burlingame. Wes contacted Vaseyi member Parker Andes, the director of horticulture at Biltmore House, and Clara Curtis, director of horticulture at the

North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville. Biltmore gardens had large sweeps of blooming deciduous azaleas. We also enjoyed seeing the old growth trees such as *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (Dawn Redwood). The azalea repository at the NC Arboretum in Asheville contains an example of all the North American native azaleas except *R. occidentale*. The twelve of us saw lots of beautiful flowers and got some design ideas. Officer elections will be held in November.

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