

Chapter News and New Members

Ben Morrison

Harold Belcher, Secretary

The October luncheon and meeting were held in Crofton, Maryland. Plants were auctioned, with some being provided by Northern Virginia Chapter members. The auction of 29 plants included several azaleas: 'Exquisite', a Kurume; 'Zig Zag' a Greenwood Hybrid; 'Kotobuki' and another Satsuki; and 'Red Ruffles' as well as lots of other outdoor and indoor plants such as daylilies, ornamental grasses, Japanese anemones and hens and chickens.

At the business meeting, President Budne reported the chapter had received a \$2,000 bequest from the estate of Jean White and that the chapter now has its' certification as a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization by both the US and State of Maryland. In addition, a memorial donation of \$250 was made in honor of Debra Hughes, who was a great help at the 2004 convention, to the Friends of the National Arboretum Save the Azaleas campaign. The slate for new officers was presented.

Welcome new associate members: Fred Newlan, Temple Hills, VA, and Faith and Jerry Bange, Davidson, MD.

▼ Strickland Hybrid 'Jesse Benton'
(*R. austrinum* x *R. atlanticum* x *R. austrinum*).



Photo Kevin McCorkle

Diane Reinke, Secretary

November 30 members of the Ben Morrison Chapter had a most enjoyable holiday party, thanks to the gracious hospitality of Bill and Gabrielle Scott at their lovely home in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Everyone feasted on the tasty dishes provided by members. This chapter has some great cooks! Bee Hobbs's legendary chocolate chip cookies were a special treat. Officer elections were held, with all officers proposed in October being elected: Budne Reinke, president; Rosa McWhorter, vice-president; Dale Flowers, treasurer; Diane Reinke, secretary. Tentative 2018 plans are being made for meetings in February and May and a cutting exchange in the summer.

A warm welcome to new member Sylvia Greene, Cowingo, MD.

Central Carolinas Chapter

Kevin McCorkle, President

After an August and September of tropical heat and humidity with very little rain, the Central Carolinas Chapter welcomed fall with a speaker presentation and plant sale at UNC-Charlotte Botanical Gardens on October 28. Special thanks to our own Dr. Larry Mellichamp for treating us to an

excellent presentation on "Growing Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and Suitable Companion Plants in the Southeast" and to those who attended from our chapter, the NC Native Plant Society, and friends of the Botanical Gardens.

◀ Central Carolina's Larry Mellichamp, PhD, Director Emeritus of UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens holding sample leaf from Bigleaf Magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*).



Photo Kevin McCorkle



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In addition to covering the deciduous azaleas native to eastern North America, Larry introduced us to many unusual native plants suitable for the semi-shady woodland garden in a setting where azaleas thrive. These include spring-flowering shrubs such as spicebush, sweetshrub, and witch-alder. Ground-covering spring wildflowers such as green-and-gold and Alleghany-spurge can be mixed with profuse bloomers like bloodroot (which will self-sow all over your woodland), Virginia bluebells, fern-leaf *Phacelia* (a beautiful wintergreen biennial), foamflower, Solomon's-plume (*Smilacina*), Indian-pink (*Spigelia*) and Stoke's aster. The woodland garden can then be rounded out with long-lasting structural elements such as Christmas fern, lady fern, and maidenhair fern.

Our plant sale area was a very popular place. Most members and non-members went home with plants, including a few seedling-plug giveaways. We're very grateful to member plantsman Danny Little for providing many interesting azaleas and companion plants to supplement the chapter's plants, for delivering them to the venue, and for assisting with set-up and sales.

Our members-only end of year meeting on November 18 at UNC-Charlotte's McMillan Greenhouse included new business, election of officers, and member social during our traditional annual silent auction of unique deciduous and evergreen azaleas and companion plants, many of which are uncommon and hard to find in the trade. Thanks to our talented member plantsmen for sourcing, propagating, growing, and sharing these special plants for the enjoyment of our members and guests. Newly collected native deciduous azalea seed from member field trips was made available to attendees along with a short refresher presentation on seed sowing and growing on for the benefit of new members interested in seed propagation. There was also a discussion about alternate methods of vegetative propagation of deciduous azaleas, including an experimental trial by a member working with dormant woody cuttings.

▼ Pictured (left to right) are Allen Broyles, Nancy Broyles, Allen Owings, Eddie Martin, Cindy Martin, SFA Gardens Director David Creech and Jim Campbell.
Not pictured are Norman and Glenda Balliviero.



Photo by an SFA Gardens volunteer

Several chapter members are continuing to further the Strickland Legacy Project through collection, propagation, documentation, and distribution. The Strickland legacy lead has also been working to develop a Legacy Project for the work of late plantsman Aaron Varnadoe. Field trips to photograph and document additional cultivars and for collection of propagation material for both legacy projects will continue in 2018.

Welcome new North Carolina members: Julia Priester, Charlotte; Therese Roy, Lincolnton; and Christy Lynch and Wiley Bennett, Monroe.

Louisiana Chapter

Allen Owings, President

Members and friends of the Louisiana Chapter of the ASA attended the SFA Gardens' fall plant sale at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, in early October.

Northern VA Chapter

Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary

Large turnouts, in the 30–40 range, have become common for the chapter as we've continued our schedule of events into the fall.

The annual cutting exchange was highly successful in July with many outside visitors and two demonstrations.

In September, the annual sale and auction was held both outside and inside the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, through the active sponsorship of VP Lars Larson. The church has been the host location for many of our meetings and we appreciate it. The outside lawn supported hundreds of plants, organized by hybridizer, and supported by an array of flower photos. Adrea Scurlock recorded the sales, which allowed cash, check and credit card purchases. Indoors, Paul Beck and Susan Bauer kept up the computer records and sales, so we always knew what we had left.

▼ Joe Klimavicz describes his many azalea hybrids at the NVA Chapter meeting in October.
The Klimavicz lecture was very well attended.



Photos Barry Sperling



Photo Barry Sperling

▲ NVA Chapter plant auction participants (l to r) Ralph Habegger, David Meadows, Carolyn Beck, and Paul Davis.

Also inside, there was a silent auction as well as a regular auction. Bob Harrison came up from North Carolina with his wife, former NVA and ASA Vice President Eve Harrison, and ran the auction aggressively and humorously so that we all enjoyed the whole performance. Don Hyatt offered information about the different plants as the auction went along. David Meadows, Paul Davis, and Ralph Habegger did the muscle work, showing off the large pots and delivering them to the successful bidders.

October featured well known hybridizer Joe Klimavicz showing off almost 1000 pictures of his hybrids, both named introductions and possible future entries. And, yes, we all wanted one of each!

December 3, we celebrated as the holiday social filled our stomachs, and we enjoyed getting together. Decisions from the annual business meeting will decide where, and how much, to send donations to worthy horticultural recipients, as we've done for many years.

We hope that you can join us for our activities and tours in 2018!

Check out our website to view our event schedule, locations, and pictures of many plants: www.nv-asa.org.

Welcome new members: Janice Kennedy, Falls Church, VA; Paul Girdzis, McLean, VA; R. Craig Hudson, Alexandria, VA.

Texas Chapter

Sherrie Randall, Secretary

September 15th Texas Chapter members began their day with a tour of the Tyler Rose & IDEA (Innovate, Demonstrate, Educate, and Apply) garden in Tyler, Texas, conducted by horticulturist and noted author Greg Grant. Following the tour, members traveled to Blue Moon Gardens in Edom, Texas, for lunch, a business meeting, and of course, shopping in their nursery. The business meeting included the election of officers for 2017/2018: President: Robert Thau; Vice President: Jeff Abt; Secretary: Sherrie Randall; Treasurer: Don Parsons. Robert was pleased to announce his home city,



Photo Mary Beth Hagood

▲ TX Chapter officers listen to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent Greg Grant (far left) explain the IDEA garden concepts and selection of roses and perennials. Shown left to right: Sherrie Randall, Secretary; Robert Thau, incoming president; Harold Hall, outgoing president; Jeff Abt, incoming vice-president. In front of Jeff was a representative from Keep Tyler Beautiful.

▼ Local Tyler chapter members Jo Ann Smith (l.) and Susan Travis (r.) shown in front of the cottage garden in the Tyler Rose Garden's IDEA Garden.



Photo Mary Beth Hagood

Jasper, Texas, will be honored as an Azalea City during the 30th annual Jasper Azalea Festival in April 2018.

In October the chapter again hosted a booth selling member-rooted azaleas at the Nacogdoches Farmers' Market in hopes of encouraging folks to plant in the fall, as well as introducing folks to the Azalea Society. In December members Nancy and Fred Niehaus will host a gathering at their Nacogdoches home to celebrate the Christmas season.

Vaseyi Chapter News

Suzanne W. Medd, Secretary

Vaseyi Chapter President J Jackson and Lindy Johnson invited everyone to visit their gardens on the weekend of June 10th. Their extraordinary garden features their hybrids of native azaleas from Gregory Bald. Later that week, June 13th, Charlie Hawkins gave a presentation on



Photo: Stierne Randall

▲ The TX Chapter held its' second azalea plant sale October 15 at the Nacogdoches Farmer's Market. Shown (l. to r.): Harold and Caryl Hall, Treasurer Don Parsons, and Robert Thau. The color photos in the 2- and 3-year plants helped encourage people to try varieties new to them.

▼ Deciduous azaleas from Gregory Bald.



Photo: J Jackson

▼ Deciduous azaleas from Gregory Bald group.

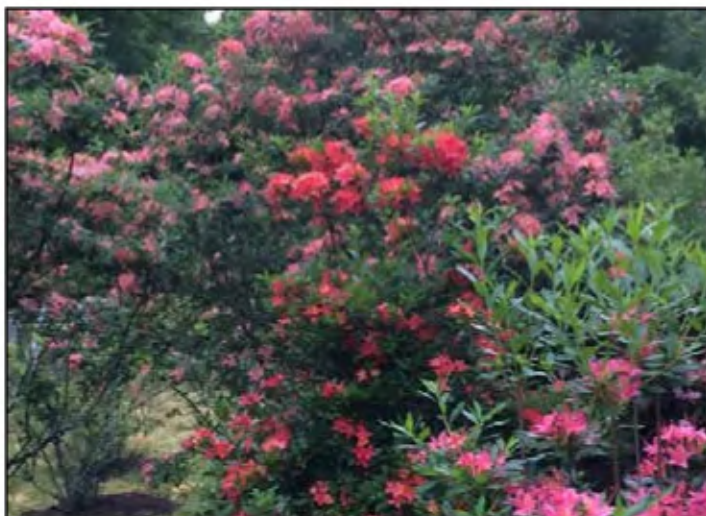


Photo: J Jackson

the identification of native azaleas at the Americourt in Mountain City, Tennessee.

The chapter is planning a meeting and meal with a speaker in February 2018. There are also plans for an overnight gathering in Boone, NC, on June 10th, 2018. Blue Ridge Parkway and garden visits and a speaker or two will

be included.

Welcome new member: Bill Jones, Carolina Native Nursery, Burnsville, NC

Rev. John Drayton Chapter welcomed new members: Joshua Giordano-Silliman and Molly Inabinett of Charleston, VA.