

# Chapter News and New Members

## Alabamense Chapter

*Amanda Wilkins, President*

The Alabamense Chapter has been moving steadily through the sweltering Deep South summer punctuated by *Rhododendron prunifolium* and our other Rhodie favorites. A June Trip to Mt. Cheaha to look for the Cumberland Azalea, *R. cumberlandense*, was a success and we were able to witness some of the gorgeous blooms. The misty altitudes gave an air of mystery and adventure to the morning and we were glad to have visitors from other ASA chapters tag along (please see the Davis Arboretum's Facebook page for more photos)! Looking forward, we are planning to get a trip together before the end of the year and have a few more trips planned for 2019! Please stay tuned!

## Arkansas Chapter

*Ronnie Palmer, President*

Our first meeting was June 23, 2018 for a cutting party at Azalea Hill Nursery in Pine Bluff. There were twenty attendees. The cuttings were taken from specimen plants scattered throughout the gardens. A few deciduous cuttings were taken, but it was slightly late for these. Gerald Klingaman drove down from Fayetteville to show us how to get cuttings to root and grow. He used a sand/peat moss medium. A rooting hormone was used. As of early September, several participants reported good success.

At a short meeting Ronnie Palmer was elected president. Steve Brizzi of Springdale is our vice president. Bob and Cheyenne Benbow are the treasurers. Donna Palmer is acting secretary until our fall meeting.

Steve Brizzi took the lead on getting the chapter by-laws put together. We are now an official chapter with 77 members spread across the state.

The fall meeting on October 2 with a plant sale with about 50 cultivars that will hopefully add a few dollars to our zero balance.

Arkansas Chapter welcomes new Arkansas members Mitch Mortvedt of Gilbert, and Ann Kendrick, Hot Springs National Park.

## Ben Morrison Chapter

*Diane Reinke, Secretary*

As of June 2018, the Ben Morrison Chapter was pleased to sign up 11 new members in May at an open-house at White's Nursery in Germantown, Maryland. Many thanks to Fred Newlan for coordinating this event.

Chapter members, joined by some members of the Northern Virginia Chapter, enjoyed a picnic, cutting exchange, and plant auction, graciously hosted by Carol Segree on June 30. Though the weather was sweltering, all had an enjoyable afternoon.

While en route to Carol's, some folks stopped off at the home of ASA members Jerry and Faith Bange, who were hosting an open garden day on June 30. Jerry and Faith

specialize in daylilies. Their garden was in peak bloom, with a multitude of colorful daylily cultivars and other plants.

After arriving at Carol's, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch. A fun plant auction followed. Plants were donated by those who attended and by White's Nursery. Various azalea cuttings were also available. Carol's beautiful garden was a delight to see. After the auction, everyone gathered in Carol's lovely air-conditioned kitchen for an informative demonstration by Barry Sperling, Northern Virginia Chapter, of Mike Creel's method of rooting azalea cuttings. Mike's method uses a soil mixture and cut-off drink bottles with screw-on tops. A big thank you to Carol, Barry, and all who helped to make this event a success.

## Louisiana Chapter

*Allen Owings, President*

The chapter met on Wednesday September 19th for our quarterly meeting at Mike's Catfish in Amite, LA., with 21 attending. We celebrated Larry Brown's 86th birthday and Margie Jenkins' 97th birthday with a beautiful cake provided by Buddy and Dixie Lee. President Allen Owings gave the final report from the national meeting held in Arkansas that was financed by the Louisiana Chapter. Our treasury balance is \$11,347. We also discussed upcoming gardening events: the SE LA Nursery Association and LSU AgCenter field day

▼ Photo 1—Larry Brown, (l) with wife Flo (m) and Margie Jenkins (r) recently celebrated birthdays at the Louisiana Chapter's September meeting.



Photo Allen Owings

in Hammond on October 4th, and the Fall Flower and Garden Festival in Crystal Springs, MS, scheduled for October 12-13. A trip in cooperation with the Louisiana chapters of the Camellia Society of America is planned to Bracy's Nursery in Amite on Friday November 30. A Christmas potluck is tentatively planned for early to mid-December at Peggy and Doc Cox's home in Independence. [Photo 1]

## Northern Virginia Chapter News

*Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary*

As the chapter moves into a busy fall, we can look back at the summer cutting exchange with satisfaction. New president Lars Larson held an efficient business meeting, then guided the members through the process of distributing the plant exchange material as well as the hundreds of cuttings.

Unfortunately, the chapter lost long-time member and friend Norma Merritt at the age of 92. She lived a full life, which was chronicled in the *Washington Post*.

Coming up as this is being written: the 11th Annual Plant Auction and Sale in Springfield at the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, where we are also lucky to have our meetings.

Following that will be a regular meeting on October 28, with ASA President Rick Bauer and Don Hyatt speaking about their travels to conventions and gardens in Europe last spring.

Carolyn and Paul Beck have been active on several fronts, working with Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, VA, to host a section displaying the hybrids of our Joe Klimavicz, who is also a resident of Vienna. Planting is expected to be done in early October.

The Becks are also delivering a large number of Holly Springs and McDonald azaleas to the Jenkins Arboretum to fill out their gardens.

Rick Bauer has been involved with the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, providing them with Glenn Dale azaleas, grown from cuttings by Mike White of White's Nursery, for their collection.

We have an active calendar every year, so join us! The Northern Virginia Chapter welcomes new Virginia members: Chip Benjamin and Doug Pulak, Arlington; Mason McDaniel, Springfield; and Anne Marie and Dan McKinnon, Vienna.

Our website is: <https://www.nv-asa.org> and our Clipper newsletters can be found at: <https://www.nv-asa.org/clippers/>

## Texas Chapter

*Sherrie Randall—Secretary*

October 18th, the chapter will hold the fall business meeting at the Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center in Orange, Texas, followed by a tour of Shangri La by Rick Lewandowski, Director of the facility. The business meeting will include election of officers and discussion of plans for 2019. This meeting timing and location is particularly poignant, since Shangri La has had to be completely restored after the damage caused by Hurricane Harvey in 2016. They held their grand re-opening September 12, 2018.

Texas Chapter welcomes new members Lori Horne, Brookeland; Betty F. Roth and Gabby Woods, Call; Tom Alford, Emory; Donna Vandermolen, Grapeland; Denise Kelley and June Mayer, Jasper; Sue Singletary, Kirbyville; Michael Short, Sam Rayburn; and Anita Quinn, San Augustine.

## Vaseyi Chapter

*Suzanne Medd—Secretary*

Vaseyi Chapter had a meeting on February 25th, 2018. Chapter President J Jackson shared his secrets and his hard-earned knowledge with our members in his presentation, "Growing Native Azaleas from Seed and Growing Them Large Enough to Plant in the Ground!" Ideas for future meetings and new member drives were discussed.

Audrey Stelloh was presented with the Augie Kehr Memorial Award in recognition of her outstanding participation in the activities of the Vaseyi Chapter. [Photo 2.] The First Annual Azalea Festival to celebrate the native azaleas in Graham County will be held in Robbinsville, NC,

▼ Photo 2—Audrey Stelloh (l) receives the Augie Kehr Memorial Award from J Jackson (r).



The Augie Kehr Memorial Award  
is presented to  
Audrey Stelloh

For your distinguished contribution to furthering the knowledge of,  
Propagation, care and general appreciation of Azaleas  
And  
In recognition of your outstanding participation in the activities of the  
Vaseyi Chapter  
Presented with deep gratitude by the Vaseyi Chapter of the ASA  
during this meeting of the Vaseyi Chapter  
in the County of Henderson the State of North Carolina,  
United States of America on the 25th day of February 2018