

Chapter News and New Members

Alabamense Chapter

Amanda Wilkins, President

No new news from the Alabamense Chapter, but stay tuned for announcements about upcoming meetings and trips in 2019. For inquiries, please email Amanda Wilkins at awilkinhortorum@gmail.com.

Ben Morrison Chapter

Diane Reinke, Secretary

Ben Morrison Chapter members gathered on October 10 for a delicious luncheon at the Hellas Greek restaurant in Millersville, Maryland. White's Nursery in Germantown, Maryland, had donated a nice selection of azaleas for the event, which were kindly picked up and delivered by Fred Newlan. Donations to the chapter were made by members for the azaleas. A high point of the luncheon was celebrating the birthdays of Faith Bange and Bob McWhorter. The chapter hopes to gather again in late November for the annual holiday party.

Central Carolinas Chapter

Kevin McCorkle, President

After a roller coaster hot and dry summer punctuated by flooding rains and high winds from two hurricane-produced tropical storms, the Central Carolinas Chapter gathered for our end-of-year meeting and social at UNC-Charlotte Botanical Gardens on December 2nd. Kevin McCorkle provided an overview and update on the Kelly Strickland and Aaron Varnadoe Legacy Projects and chapter participation was discussed. Larry Mellichamp shared a projected collection of excellent photos of native azaleas from Gregory Bald this summer provided by his colleague at the Highlands Botanical Garden. We also had an informal group discussion on propagation by seed and growing-on, growing media mixes, and members' experiences with different soil amendments, including gypsum and Epsom salts.

Our December meeting was capped off by our traditional silent auction of very special plants. We're very grateful to J Jackson and Lindy Johnson for generously sharing

an incredible variety of seedling deciduous azaleas to our Chapter in July, for use in this auction, future plant sales. The auction was made even more interesting by plant contributions from several chapter members, including some very special non-azalea companion plants. Included on the auction table were at least a half dozen different Perkins hybrids, several Strickland hybrids, and plants from wild collected seed such as *R. calendulaceum* from Hurricane Creek, *R. prunifolium* from Providence Canyon, *R. arborescens* var. Georgiana, *R. canescens* from Lee County AL and near Auburn, *R. colemanii*, *R. alabamense* from Bankhead Forest, yellow and purple Choptank and many more. All guaranteed to NOT be available in garden centers (but should be)! [Photos 1 & 2]

Louisiana Chapter

Allen Owings, President

Louisiana azalea folks held a very nice Christmas Social and Meal at the Independence, LA home of Dox and Peggy Cox on Sunday December 2nd. In addition, we joined the camellia clubs from south Louisiana and the Baton Rouge Rose Society for a tour of Bracy's Nursery, Amite, LA with our president Allen Owings on Friday November 30th. Bracy's Nursery has been a stop on several national convention tours and produces over 2 million ornamental plants annually.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary

The fall season of Northern VA chapter activities rolls on as a large fraction of the membership showed up to haul thousands of plants and set them up on tables for the September Auction and Sale. Many also helped during the sale, carrying plants to successful bidders and then helping them get their choices into their cars. After the sale many again loaded the unsold plants and put away the tables, sweeping up as a final touch.

October found two top speakers joining in one program, making most of us feel we missed a great opportunity to see plants in Europe as Don Hyatt spoke about the tours

▼ Photos 1 & 2—The Central Carolinas Chapter may have set a record for the number of deciduous azaleas transported in a car in a single trip!



Photo Kevin McCorkle



Photo Kevin McCorkle



Photo Barry Sperling

▲ Photo 3—The NVA Chapter members always bring plenty of azaleas to their meetings

▼ Photo 4—NVA Chapter members enjoy refreshments (l to r around table): Carolyn Beck, Marvin Friedman, Margaret Vogel, Patsy Meadows, Joanne Neckel, David Meadows, and Susan Hedrick.



Photo Barry Sperling

associated with the ARS convention in Bremen, Germany and ASA President Rick Bauer covered the post convention tour of Finland. Both had slides of beautiful flowers and scenery.

Carolyn and Paul Beck have been involved with donating azaleas to the Jenkins Arboretum in Pennsylvania, as well as helping to coordinate the new garden of Joe Klimavicz's hybrids in Meadowlark Gardens of Vienna, VA.

Coming up, as of this writing, is the Holiday Social at the home of the Beck's, which will include the annual business meeting and the selection of recipients for our donations.

The chapter welcomes new members Chip Benjamin and Doug Pulak, Arlington, VA; Jean and Norm Beaudry,

Bethesda, MD; Karen H. Kinsey and Diane Hill, Falls Church, VA.

Reverend John Drayton Chapter

The chapter is working hard on preparations for the 2019 ASA convention in Summerville, South Carolina and welcomes new members Terre and Wyatt Stevens, Johns Island, SC.

Texas Chapter

Sherrie Randall, Secretary

Texas Chapter members held their fall meeting on a beautiful sunny day at Shangri La Botanical Gardens & Native Center in Orange, Texas. Director, and fellow chapter member, Rick Lewandowski, guided us on a tour through this ecofriendly, modern day Shangri La. Considering the heavy flood damage suffered last year, the gardens were beautiful. An added bonus, we enjoyed their scarecrow festival with over 50 entries scattered throughout the gardens.

Our business meeting followed lunch where members voted to increase the SFA horticulture scholarship award to two next year and moving our Nacogdoches Farmers Market plant sale from the fall to spring in 2019. President Robert Thau shared the reasoning that went into the decision to create a new chapter to be called the Texas Forest Country Chapter. Noting his sole effort in recruiting 23 members, acquiring the Jasper city officials' support of this endeavor, along with his overall enthusiasm for ASA, Robert was applauded by all members in attendance.

Final business, officers elected to serve in 2019: President, David Creech; Vice President, Sherrie Randall; Secretary, Caryl Hall; and Treasurer, Don Parsons.

Texas Forest Country Chapter

Robert Thau, President

Our kick-off meeting was held on October 22, 2018 at the Jasper Master Gardeners Arboretum with 17 members present. We went over our goals and future activities of our chapter along with a competitive membership drive. One of our items is to plant an azalea garden at the Jasper Master Gardeners Arboretum this fall through a plant donation from a chapter member.

The chapter welcomes new members Ann Pierce and Susan Strackbein, of Jasper, TX.



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