

Chapter News and New Members

Note: There is now a calendar of chapter events on the ASA website. Go to <https://www.azaleas.org/calendars/>

Arkansas Chapter News

Ronnie Palmer—President

The winter meeting was held the afternoon of February 12 at Salem United Methodist Church in Benton, AR. The program covered growing azaleas from cuttings through final placement in members' gardens. Debbie Atkinson gave an Internet tour of azalea websites, especially the main ASA website, www.azaleas.org. I also recommend the Northern Virginia website, www.nv-asa.org. Other material covered at the meeting:

- ▶ Huang Azaleas—PowerPoint on these Chinese azaleas by Ronnie Palmer.
- ▶ Growers Project Update by Janet Rensing, Donna Palmer, Janet, and Ronnie repotted several 1-gallon plants to 3-gallon size, to be ready for chapter's October sale.
- ▶ Plant Sale—Prices on the plants not sold last October reduced by 25%.
- ▶ Photo Album—Thanks to those who sent in new photos. Frank Howard, chapter photographer takes photos at meetings and events.
- ▶ Dues—Last year, about 74 members joined, thanks to the half-year membership from the Azaleas 101 Conference. Today there are about 30.

March 1-3—The chapter has been invited to have a booth at the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show, with a theme of "Living Color." Volunteers needed to man the booth.

Personal note from Ronnie and Donna Palmer, owners of Azalea Hill, their nursery in White Hall, AR: Members of the Arkansas Chapter of the ASA are invited to come take cuttings at any time during the long cutting season (mid-May through mid-October). They also buy plastic pots 3 gal or larger and offer 20% discounts to ASA members.

Ben Morrison Chapter

Diane Reinke—Secretary

Six regular chapter members, three associate members, and eight guests attended the chapter's holiday luncheon on November 30, 2018, at Hellas Restaurant in Millersville, Maryland. All enjoyed a delicious meal.

Don Hyatt of the Northern Virginia Chapter gave a very informative and colorful slide presentation about the recent American Rhododendron Society (ARS) conference earlier in the year in Germany. Azaleas were in peak bloom and the conference organizers did a fantastic job.

A raffle was held to raise funds for a memorial to former member Gray Carter. The Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS and the Ben Morrison Chapter of the ASA will share the expense, which is estimated to be about \$1,200 for a teak

bench with a plaque. The raffle raised \$150. The bench will be located in a prominent part of the London Town Gardens in Edgewater, Maryland, which is just outside Annapolis.

The Ben Morrison Chapter welcomes Carol Segree, of Gambrills, MD, as a new member and looks forward to interesting activities in 2019.

Louisiana Chapter

Allen Owings—President

The Louisiana Chapter is busy planning activities for 2019. We will have an afternoon BBQ picnic at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station, Hammond, LA on Sunday March 31st. The Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden should be in nice spring bloom then.

Congratulations to long time members Flo and Larry Brown of the Louisiana Chapter on their recent 60th wedding anniversary.

The Louisiana Chapter recently donated \$500 to the LSU AgCenter and \$500 to the Azalea Society of America general funds from our treasury. The Louisiana Chapter also sponsored a table at the 9th annual fund raising gala for the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Foundation for Scholarship and Research last summer. This year's event will be held at City Park in New Orleans in June.

Congratulations also go to Buddy Lee, who was awarded the 2018 Sidney B. Meadows Award by the International Plant Propagators Southern Region. [Photo 1] This award is the highest honor bestowed upon a Southern Region member. It recognizes outstanding individuals for their contributions to the nursery industry and to plant propagation in the Southern Region of the North America. In describing this award to Buddy on the IPPS website, they described him as "...one

▼ Photo 1— Buddy Lee was awarded the IPPS (International Plant Propagators Society) Southern Region Sidney B. Meadows Award at the IPPS 2019 meeting in Chattanooga, TN. Presented by Laura Miller.



of the most respected plant breeders and horticulturists in North America.”

The chapter welcomes new members Jeff Keuhnly and Kenneth Owens, of Baton Rouge, LA, and Roy Joseph Barrios, Jr. of Hammond, LA.

In closing, be sure to check out information on Lafayette, LA’s History Azalea Trail. Lafayette has been an ASA Azalea City since 2016. See more at <https://azaleatrail.org/>

Northern Virginia Chapter

Barry Sperling—Corresponding Secretary

The strength of the Northern VA Chapter is in its volunteers. Many show up at each meeting, bringing food, setting up plants for sales and exchanges, setting up and breaking down the furniture, and keeping the AV support moving smoothly. If you want to see a list of these volunteers, look at our membership roster as everyone pitches in when the need arises. Thanks to everyone!

The Holiday Social in December was hosted by Carolyn and Paul Beck and catered by those many volunteers. [Photos 2, 3] Re-elected at the business meeting were President Lars Larson, Secretary Joanne Neckel, and Treasurer/Webmaster Paul Beck. Diane Marcus volunteered for the vacant Vice President’s job and was elected, also. We appreciate their giving their time for club duties. With the passage of the

budget, we continued donations toward the Friends of the National Arboretum, Friends of the Green Spring Title I Program, the Norfolk Botanical Garden, and the ASA General Fund. We are also supporting Meadowlark Gardens and their new Klimavicz Garden, to be installed this spring.

Prior to the Social, the October meeting featured famous speakers Rick Bauer and Don Hyatt, showing pictures from their spring tour in Europe. Don covered the ARS Bremen Convention and Rick the post-convention tour of Finland. All were amazing pictures!

Coming up in the spring will be the March meeting, garden tours, plant sales, and get togethers at conventions. We are looking forward to a year as great as 2018 was!

The chapter welcomes new member Ann B. Young, Williamsburg, VA.

The Reverend John Drayton Chapter

The chapter continues to prepare to host the 2019 national ASA convention in Summerville, South Carolina. They also welcome new members Brenda Matthews and Shirah Goldweber, of Charleston, SC.

Texas Chapter

Caryl Hall—Secretary

The chapter will have a booth at the Nacogdoches Farmer’s Market Spring Fling March 30th from 9 am to 2 pm. Members will be selling azaleas and educating the public about the ASA. The spring meeting will be April 13, 2019, with the time and place yet to be determined.

Texas Forest Chapter

Robert Thau—President

The Texas Forest Country Chapter will be doing the first phase of planting at the Jasper Master Gardeners Arboretum on the 9th of March. We will be planting various azaleas not seen in our area before. We are in the planning stages for the three-phase Jasper city beautification project, which is due to start this year with planting at Sandy Creek Park. The chapter is still moving forward in signing up new members. We will be at our city’s annual Azalea Festival with a booth with azaleas to sell.

The chapter welcomes new members Amanda Haralson, Brookeland; Carol Broadway, Porter; and Nancy C. Windham, Lufkin, TX.

Welcome, More New Members!

Alabamense Chapter welcomes new members Donald P. and Kimberly J. Widdon, Semmes, AL, and Suzanne M. Lai and Ulysses Yee, Huntsville, AL.

Central Carolinas Chapter welcomes new member Mary Griffin, Charlotte, NC.

Vaseyi Chapter welcomes new members Michael Bamford and Pim Rust, Atlanta, GA.

Welcome new At-large Members Barry Eisenberg, Metuchen, NJ; Carolyn Summers, Liberty, NY; Jennifer Pollard, Milledgeville, GA; Orphia Gibbs, Rogersville, TN; Richard Cushing, Reading, MA; Rosalea Daly, Redwood City, CA.



Photo Barry Sperling

▲ Photo 2— December 9 Holiday Party business meeting at home of Carolyn and Paul Beck.

▼ Photo 3—Holiday party group (l to r): Patsy Meadows, David Meadows, Pati Gabaldoni, Paul Davis, Rick Bauer.



Photo Fred Newlin