

# Chapter News and New Members

## Alabamense Chapter

The chapter welcomes new member Jeanette Wimpee, Jackson Gap, Alabama.

## Arkansas Chapter

*Ronnie Palmer—President*

The Arkansas Chapter had its second annual cutting party on Saturday June 23 at Azalea Hill in Pine Bluff. Attendance was very good. A total of 32 people attended.

The cuttings were taken from the specimen plants at Azalea Hill, and Randall and Kay Lewis provided many cuttings from their fabulous azalea garden. Randall had the cuttings neatly packed in bags of ten cuttings. He had about 100 cuttings of his favorite azalea ‘Louisa J. Bobbink’ (LBJ). They are very welcome new members of the Arkansas Chapter.

A hamburger and hot dog cookout followed. The fellowship was great, and food was delicious. Bob Benbow gave a treasurer’s report. Our bank balance is \$822.75.

Members were advised of the upcoming National Convention in Houston, Texas, in March 2020. We hope to have a good delegation from Arkansas at that meeting.

Terri Waterman and Karl Trautman sent pictures of their cutting project [Photo 1]. The chapter welcomes new members Randall and Kay Lewis of Pine Bluff.

## Ben Morrison Chapter

*Diane Reinke—Secretary*

Several chapter members enjoyed attending the open garden of associate members Faith and Jerry Bange at the end of June. Their garden features a beautiful collection of daylilies and other summer flowers, which were in peak bloom.

A few weeks later, chapter members held a picnic, cutting exchange, and plant auction at the lovely home of Joe Miller, known as Wake Robin, in California, Maryland. Azaleas

▼ Photo 1—Terri and Karl’s cutting project cold frame.



Photo Waterman and Trautman

for the auction were graciously donated by Mike and Deb White’s Nursery of Germantown, Maryland. Their nursery has also supported a 3-year effort to encourage membership in the chapter. Though the weather was sizzling hot, everyone chilled out on Joe’s cool sunporch while enjoying a delicious selection of luncheon dishes.

The chapter partnered with the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society to purchase a memorial bench for Gray Carter, which has been installed at London Town Gardens on the South River in Edgewater, Maryland. [Photo 2]

Future events include late summer and fall luncheons and auctions at Ashling’s Kitchen and Bar in Crofton, Maryland.

The chapter has welcomed 13 new members, recruited through their free half-year membership for people buying plants at their plant sale: Richard Bradshaw, Crownsville, MD; Lois Duffy, Severna Park, MD; Grace Gohs, Olney, MD; Sherri and Trevor Joyce, University Park, MD; Kevin Judd, Ashburn, Virginia; Steven Morrison, Paul Nowacek, and Bill and Ellen-Jane Pairo, Silver Spring, MD; Guhver and Laura Mullen, Rockville, MD; and Maria Price Nowakowski, Severn, MD. These members are also associate members of the NVA Chapter.

▼ Photo 2—Bench dedicated by Ben Morrison Chapter and placed this spring. The dedication plaque reads: In Memory of Henry Gray Carter, 1921-2018, a kind and generous man, who propagated rhododendrons to share with plant enthusiasts in the Mid-Atlantic region.



Photo Carol Segree

## Louisiana Chapter

### *Allen Owings—President*

John A. “Doc” Cox II, of Independence, Louisiana, passed away at his home on Monday, June 10, 2019, at the age of 72. He was born on August 16, 1946, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the son of the late John Andrew Cox and Frances Letitia Cazedessus Cox. Doc was a US Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He was an avid duck hunter and loved to fish. Doc is the husband of Peggy Cox, past president of the Louisiana Chapter, Azalea Society of America, and past board member, ASA. Peggy and Doc regularly attended horticulture events across the country—including many ASA events and conventions over the past 25 years. Memorial donations may be made to the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens Development Fund, LSU Foundation, 3796 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

## Northern VA Chapter

### *Barry Sperling—Secretary*

Our popular cutting exchange, July 14th, again drew a crowd eager for plant material. In addition to the cuttings from many varieties, a plant exchange covered an equally large chain of tables, guaranteeing that everyone went home with an armful of plantings, despite the heat and humidity. This event has always attracted people from outside the DC area, with Robert Thau of Texas claiming the longest drive. As always, the culinary contributions and pleasant companionship added to the day.

Work has been continuing the Klimavicz Garden in Meadowlark Gardens with a weeding session in early July. Carolyn and Paul Beck, Rick Bauer, Dave Nanney, and Joanne and Dan Neckel put in the time to make the area more attractive. [Photos 3-5]

Our next meeting will be on September 28 for the popular annual Plant Sale and Auction at the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in West Springfield, VA. This always gets a fine turnout. We’ll have a speaker for our fall meeting on October 27 at the same venue. Join us!

The chapter welcomes new members Carol Allen, Germantown, MD, and Linus Chen, Oakton, VA.

▼ Photo 3—People grouped around the Northern Virginia Chapter plant exchange.



Photo Barry Sperling

## Texas Chapter

### *Caryl Hall—Secretary*

At the spring meeting on May 11th President Dr. David Creech presented information on upcoming horticulture projects and issues of interest to membership. Ideas for increasing the visibility of our chapter were also discussed. The two winners of the Texas Chapter ASA scholarships were announced. These scholarships are awarded to students pursuing degrees in Horticulture. [Photo 6]

Eight Chapter members stuck many cuttings on May 25th to be sold at future plants sales. Annual plant sales for fund raising and dissemination of azalea information are scheduled each Spring.

Sadly, the chapter reports the passing of Jo Ann Smith, who previously served as Chapter President and past ASA Board of Directors member.

We welcome Gary Brock of Houston, TX as our new member.



Photo Carolyn Beck

▲ Photo 4—Dave Nanney (left) and Paul Beck pretend to lift large log.

▼ Photo 5—Tired and dirty group of NVA members; left to right: Dan and Joanne Neckel, Dave Nanney, and Carolyn and Paul Beck at the Klimavicz Garden workday in Meadowlark Gardens.



Photo Rick Bauer



Photo Sherrie Randall

▲ Photo 6—Texas Chapter scholarship recipients Hailey Dunbar, sophomore, and Jevon Richeson, junior, students of Dr. Jared Barnes, assistant professor of Horticulture at Stephen F. Austin State University.

## Texas Forest Country Chapter

*Robert Thau—President*

Our chapter held a short meeting June 8th, followed by a propagation workshop at Natures Way Gardens, with a good turnout of members. On June 15th another propagation workshop was held for members of the Jasper Master Gardeners, with another great turnout. I plan to hold this event yearly.

Natures Way garden tours were very successful, with many garden clubs and master gardeners from around the area and couples, to see the many azalea cultivars not known to them. I would like to thank Beverly Holly, the

Executive Director of the Jasper/Sam Rayburn Chamber of Commerce for all her help and support in promoting our chapter and Natures Way Gardens. Beverly's post on the chamber's website about our chapter and the garden tours had over 3000 hits.

The Sandy Creek Park expansion project is underway, and we plan to start planting azaleas this fall. The project is part of the Jasper beautification project, which includes the azalea gardens and 60-plus acres of wooded nature trail. I will keep you updated on this project.

The chapter welcomes new members Earline Barrow, Jasper; Nancy R. Nicholson, Brookeland; Julia and Arden Claire Pruett, Burkeville; and Christine and Gerald Schmelebeck, Buna, Texas.

Speaking as the ASA Membership Chair, I have noticed we are recruiting new members for our chapters. Hats off to the members who are working hard to achieve this. Keep up the good work.

## Vaseyi Chapter

The chapter welcomes new member Lisa-Marie Quinlan, Asheville, NC.

**E-mail us your  
chapter news and  
photographs to  
theazalean@gmail.com**

# Changes in Membership Dues Structure

*By Paul Beck, Treasurer*

As a result of a decision from the 2019 Board of Director's meeting in Summerville, SC, two changes have been authorized to the ASA dues structure. The fee for those signing up for the **Online only** version of *The Azalean* has been reduced to **\$25 per year**. This reduction reflects the incremental printing and mailing costs for the four issues. Online only members are emailed a PDF of the journal, and they can read the online version on the website. In addition, a new **\$15 per year Student** membership was approved. This rate applies to full-time students under the age of 25.

In addition, a regular member can also become an



**Associate** member of any number of other chapters. This entitles the member to receive electronic communications from the associate chapter, such as newsletters and periodic informational emails. Also, the associate member is welcome to participate in any of the activities of their associate chapter. Associate chapter dues are typically \$5 per year per associate chapter (but that rate may be whatever the associate chapter deems appropriate).

The above changes have been implemented on our website and are shown on the membership form on the outside wrapper of this issue.