

“Born on the Bayou” 2020 National Convention: Houston, Texas March 12-14, 2020

The members of the River Oaks Garden Club, hosts of the oldest Azalea Trail in the US, are helping Bart Brechter, Curator of Bayou Bend Gardens, head of Gardens and Landscape Operations at Bayou Bend, and Texas Chapter members get the gardens in the River Oaks District of Houston ready for lots of ASA azalea-enthusiasts. There are two private home gardens that will be on the tour as well, which have been described as “phenomenal” and not to be missed.

There is still time to register online at the ASA website, or using the registration form printed on the outside wrapper of this issue. (See also Paul Beck’s article on page 84 in this issue and the convention preview article in the Fall 2019 issue.)

The Itinerary below indicates the schedule of events. Board members will need to be onsite at the convention hotel

for the board meeting at 11:00 am Thursday March 12. Note that the plant sale will be open from 11:00 am to 5 pm that day, closing in time for the evening speaker. There are many other times to visit the plant sale as well. All convention lectures will be held at the convention hotel:

Houston Marriott West Loop
1750 West Loop South

\$119.00/night—rate subject to sales and local taxes
(currently 17%)

800-228-9290 / 713-960-0111

Be sure to book your hotel rooms early. These hotel numbers will transfer you to Reservations; mention you are with the Azalea Society of American Convention 2020 and ask for their special rate.

2020 Convention Itinerary and Events

Thursday, March 12, 2020 (Plant Sale Times: 11am-5pm)

11 am – 1 pm	Board Meeting
1 pm – 5 pm	Registration
5 pm	Welcoming Remarks
5:15 pm – 6:00 pm	Lecture: Terry Smith (History of River Oaks Garden Club Azalea Trail)

Dinner on your own

Friday, March 13, 2020 (Plant Sale Times: 7am – 8am; 5:30pm – 8:00pm)

8:30 am	Buses Leave
9:00 am – 12:30 pm	Tour Azalea Trail Home Gardens
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch at the River Oaks Garden Club Forum of Civics
1:30 pm	Buses Leave
1:40 pm – 2:40 pm	Tour Flores Garden
2:40 pm – 3:40 pm	Tour Zilka Garden
3:40 pm	Load buses; return to hotel
4:00 – 4:45 pm	Lecture: Bart Brechter (History of Bayou Bend)

Dinner on your own

Saturday, March 14, 2020 (Plant Sale Times: 7-8am; 1-2pm; 4-6pm)

8:30 am	Buses leave
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Tour Bayou Bend and Rienzi
12:00 pm	Load buses back to hotel
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm	Lecture: Lisa Hassel (In-depth Look at Historic Azaleas)
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Lecture: Bradley Bailey (The Azalea Influence in Asian Art)
6:00 pm	Banquet and Closing Remarks