

Chapter News and New Members

Arkansas Chapter

Jan Rensing—Secretary

The winter meeting was held February 11, 2020, at Salem United Methodist Church, Benton, Arkansas, with 16 members attending.

Old Business—The Lonoke County Master Gardener Expo & Plant Sale: Jan Rensing gave an update to everyone about the Expo that is scheduled for April 18, 2020 at the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Cabot, Arkansas from 8:00 to 4:30. Jan called for volunteers to work the expo booth to sell the plants that were purchased by Ronnie in accordance with the motion passed at the October meeting. Ronnie brought a sample of the azaleas purchased for the sale. Eleven members volunteered to man the booth during the time allotted for the sale. Ronnie will deliver the azaleas to Jan Rensing the day before the sale and Jan will deliver them to the Expo the next day for set up. Jan indicated that she would pay the booth rental fee of \$25 for her commitment to the Chapter, since she will be unable to help with the sale. Additionally, Mitch Mortvedt, chapter member and owner of Woodland Wonders Nursery will bring native azaleas to sell. Ronnie said that Mitch has indicated that he would be donating 25% of his sales to our Chapter.

New Business—National ASA Brochure: It was discussed that having a supply of the National ASA brochure with a label on the back of the brochure with chapter contact information would be beneficial to have at the sale to pass out to anyone who may be interested in joining. Donna Peebles offered to help with the stickers. Another suggestion was to include a membership application inside the brochure.

2020 Calendar – Ronnie brought up garden tours for this year. He suggested that there were several close to our area that would be good for tours: Honor Heights, in Muskogee, OK, and Dr. Leonard Miller, Lendonwood Gardens, in Grove, Ok. It was suggested that a committee be formed to explore garden tours.

Ronnie stated that he received an email from the LA Chapter inquiring if our chapter wanted to hold a joint meeting sometime in the future. There was some discussion on this, but nothing was decided. There will be a combined meeting

Phyliss shared some of her secrets with us so that we too can enjoy beautiful gardens with less work. She purchases the garden supplies she mentions from SiteOne Landscape Supply located in Maumelle, AR.

- In early spring and late fall, she broadcasts Aloft throughout her beds; this is an insecticide that she purchases. She uses approximately ¼ cup for a 4' x 4' azalea. If she has time, she will do a third application at some point during the winter, but she always makes certain she applies in both spring and fall to avoid lace bugs.
- Next, she broadcasts Heritage (a granular fungicide) throughout the entire bed.
- For weed control, she broadcasts Snapshot throughout the beds.
- She uses plant markers throughout the beds to identify the various plants
- She uses pine bark mulch throughout all beds with a narrow band of Roundup to maintain the rock border surrounding all the beds.

with the Ozark Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society at Larry Coleman's garden, Batesville, AR, in late April. None Opposed.

Ronnie reminded us of the cutting party scheduled for June 20, 2020 at 9:00 am. Ronnie asked all of us to bring cuttings if we had them for sharing. He also told us that he is planning a special sale at Azalea Hill to take place during April. Ronnie will provide more details. Business meeting was adjourned.

The chapter welcomes new members: Joe Nealey, Benton, AR and Joe and Terri Moore, Jacksonville, AR.

Program—Phyliss Kirtley presented a visual tour of her display garden in Benton, Arkansas. Phyliss grows plants for display for the Daffodil, Iris, and the Daylily Societies as well as growing azaleas. Her gardens cover a 3-acre plot of wooded rolling ground and are open for tours at any time.



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There is no charge for a tour, and they are strictly at your direction. She asks only that you leave the clippers at home, and you don't pull any weeds. In other words, look but don't touch, and only leave with pictures and memories.

Phyliss told us that when she purchased the property 15 years ago, she planted a lot of azaleas because of the woods, and She uses "Knock-Out" Roses. Today, her azaleas have grown very large and she said that she has had to expand her beds away from the azaleas because of their size. She said that this year, after the blooms have faded, she will be cutting back her azaleas, and digging up volunteer plants. She offered any plants that she will not replant to anyone who wanted to take the chance on these "rescues from the back 40", as she put it. If you tour her garden you will notice the rocks surrounding her raised beds, all of which came directly out of her garden. The amount of work that Phyliss has put into her gardens over the years is evident when you tour the grounds in bloom.

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Next Up – Ronnie introduced us to the Holly Springs Azaleas that were hybridized by Colonel Pete Vines and are featured at Azalea Hill. Many of these varieties feature longer petals.

The meeting ended with a live auction to benefit the chapter. The azalea was donated by Carden Harris Nursery and had been growing in their greenhouse. The azalea named "IGA" because it was purchased as a florist azalea at an IGA grocery store. Bidding started out at \$10.00 and it became evident that it was a crowd pleaser. Ultimately it was sold to Debra Carpenter for \$44.

Ben Morrison Chapter

Diane Reinke—Secretary

Chapter members and guests gathered on Sunday, December 1, 2019, for a very enjoyable holiday party at Hidden View Farm, the beautiful home of Richard Bradshaw in Crownsville, Maryland. The many rooms of Richard's home were colorfully decorated and featured several fresh flower arrangements. Everyone enjoyed an assortment of tasty dishes for an early afternoon meal and friendly conversation. Some folks exchanged gifts with a gardening theme. The chapter presented Richard with a lovely orchid in gratitude for hosting the event.

Those in attendance included Joe Miller, Halit Kardak, Carol Segree, Bill and Gabrielle Scott, Harold Belcher, Dave and Leslie Nanney, Paul and Carolyn Beck, Brian Washburn, Rosa and Bob McWhorter, Richard Bradshaw, Maria and Martin Nowakowski, Don Hyatt, Lois and Jim Duffy, and Diane and Budne Reinke.

Future chapter activities might include tours of public and private gardens, speakers, and a spring plant sale.

Central Carolinas Chapter

Kevin McCorkle—President

Planning continues for our chapter's hosting of the 2021 ASA Convention in and around Charlotte, NC, in early April of next year.



Photo Kevin McCorkle

▲ Photo 1— A side path through mature deciduous azaleas at the Bartlett Research Arboretum, which will be a tour site or the ASA Convention in 2021.

▼ Photo 2— Re-elected President Lars Larson leads the Northern Virginia Chapter social meeting.



Photo Barry Spierling

We're very excited to be partnering with the R.A. Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories & Arboretum near Charlotte for a memorable exploration of their 350-acre outdoor classroom during one day of the convention. As a sustainable and thought-provoking living museum, the property is an accredited level IV Class Arboretum with an extensive collection of tree and plant species from around the world. With over 21,000 accessioned plants, including over 5,000 ericaceous plants, the Arboretum highlights include one of the best collections of oaks and conifers on the East Coast, the largest collection of magnolia cultivars in the world, the third largest collection of Holly in the United States, and an extensive collection of rhododendron species. (See Photo 1.) In addition to the collections, display gardens and research areas, the many ponds and woodlands throughout the Arboretum provide a home to a variety of wildlife and serve as a bird sanctuary. Best of all, the accessioned plants are all geolocated, inventoried and LABELED!

The Bartlett Research Arboretum is not open to the public and access is by invitation only, so we are very fortunate and excited for the rare opportunity to share this hidden jewel with all 2021 Convention attendees. More information to follow on this and other 2021 Convention venues and activities in upcoming Chapter News.

Northern Virginia Chapter News

Barry Sperling—Corresponding Secretary

The enjoyable 2019 azalea year ended with our annual Holiday Social, this year at the invitation of Jean and Lars Larson. Their fine home allowed space for all to move around, converse, eat and view the meeting. Potluck and club-purchased food was plentiful and covered every variety.

The meeting provided reports on activities, including the continuing work on the Klimavicz Legacy Garden at Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna, VA, and its official dedication this spring.

The current officers agreed to continue for the coming year: Lars Larson as president, Diane Marcus as Vice President, Paul Beck as Treasurer, and Joanne Neckel as Secretary. (See Photo 2.)

Chapter plant sales provided a good profit for the continuation of the newsletter *The Clipper*, and a series of donations: \$2000 to Meadowlark Gardens in support of the Klimavicz Legacy Garden, \$1500 supporting the Greenspring Garden's Title I program of gardening experiences and education, and \$1000 to the ASA General Fund.

Activities this year will feature:

- A joint meeting with the ARS Potomac Valley Chapter on March 29th at the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in West Springfield,
- The Klimavicz Legacy Garden Dedication in late April
- Tours of member gardens from late April to early May
- The Cutting Exchange on July 12th
- The Auction/Sale on September 12th
- The fall meeting on October 25th. The above three meetings will be at the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church.
- The 2020 Holiday Social on December 5th at the home of the Becks.

Join us and enjoy a busy azalea year!

Texas Chapter

Caryl Hall—Secretary

Two weeks after the 2020 Convention in Houston, the Texas Chapter will hold its' annual plant sale on March 28, 2020, in Tyler, Texas. In conjunction with the Tyler Azalea trail, we will be advertised in the trail's publicity. Plants will be from our own stock and profits will be used for horticulture scholarships.

Vaseyi Chapter

Aaron Cook—President

A meeting of the Vaseyi Chapter of ASA was held on February 2, 2020. Seventeen members attended at the invitation of Aaron Cook, newly hired Dean of Arts and Sciences at Blue Ridge Community College. Aaron welcomed members to the campus and gave a brief overview of how the College and Chapter could work together for mutual benefit. Members toured the greenhouse on the hill behind the campus. Afterwards, we drove through the campus to the horticulture classrooms. Vaseyi members were delighted to see each other and catch up on news.

Dr. Augie Kehr, geneticist and a founding member of Vaseyi Chapter and his wife Mary Louise were friends of the college and established an endowment to be used by the college to bring in "Speakers on Environmental and Botanical Subjects". The Kehr Lecture Series has been part of Blue Ridge Community College for many years. For more info, visit <https://www.blueridge.edu/foundation/kehr-lecture-series>

Vaseyi members reminisced about Augie and other past members of the chapter. I said that along with the Lecture Series, their plants need to be preserved as well. "Plants have a story for us". Special azaleas and other plants hybridized by members of the Vaseyi Chapter and the Southeastern Rhododendron Chapter need a public home.

Several former and current ASA and ARS members who are not currently part of the existing ASA Legacy group need to have as much of their plant material as possible preserved for future generations. With a thriving Horticulture program and an ideal location, Blue Ridge Community College could provide a future home for Legacy Project gardens.

Going forward, the Vaseyi Chapter elected the following officers and plans to hold a program planning meeting to establish speakers and programs for 2020.

President—Aaron Cook; Treasurer—Doley Bell; Secretary—Suzanne Medd

Board members: April Sanborn, John Brown, Leon Pace, Andy Whipple, Audrey Stelloh.

New At-large Member

Welcome, Tom Tierney, Stamford, CT.

