

Chapter News and New Members

deep breath and enjoy the beauty that surrounds you. During this time, there are also numerous conifers pushing new growth with some of the most intense colors of blues and golds seen nowhere else. As the high temperatures return, we find ourselves looking to the amazing collection of crape myrtles that bloom with just as many colors as the azaleas and provide interest when everything else is coping with the summer heat. Eventually fall returns and takes us on another rollercoaster ride of colors as the leaves begin to change to brilliant reds, yellows and oranges, with the oaks, hickories, and maples. The cycle then repeats itself; however, as the plants grow larger and more are added to the collections, the show becomes better every year!

Patrick Franklin Patrick has been working with trees most of his life. Growing up in the Sandhills region of eastern North Carolina, he has always enjoyed being in the forest and working with plants. After earning his BBA, he applied to work in Arboriculture at one of the offices for Bartlett Tree Experts. Patrick is the great grandson of F.A. Bartlett and the 4th generation to be involved in the family business caring for trees. He is proud to be part of a company with an impressive history dating back to 1907. After spending 10 years in Charleston, SC, managing trees on clients' properties, Patrick decided to focus on an MBA degree, which he received with honors. He then moved to Charlotte, NC, in 2013 and began work at the R.A. Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories and Arboretum where he is currently the Vice President of Special Operations. Patrick is active in acquiring plants for many of the collections at the Arboretum and is proud to continue the family business of caring for trees and the tradition of collecting plants from around the world.

Sean Henry is a Research Technician at the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory and Arboretum in Charlotte, NC. Originally from the Philadelphia area, he has had a lifelong passion for horticulture, particularly edible landscapes. He is a commercially licensed drone pilot and has been studying the use of drones in arboriculture for the past five years. In addition to flying UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems), he works with Dr. Tom Smiley studying soils and fertilizers, lightning protection in trees, cabling, bracing, and conducting tests on drought resistance, tree growth regulators, and saltwater intrusion remediation.



A business card for White's Nursery, LLC. The card features a photograph of a pink azalea flower on the left side. The text on the card includes the name 'Mike and Deb White' with the email 'whiteaz@verizon.net', the company name 'White's Nursery, LLC' with the tagline 'Specializing in Azaleas and Rhododendrons' and the website 'www.whites-nursery.com'. At the bottom, the address is '22531 Wildcat Road, Germantown, MD 20876' and the phone numbers are '301 788 3293' and '301 471 5958'.

Arkansas Chapter

The chapter welcomes new member Paula Jackson, Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas.

Ben Morrison Chapter

Diane Reinke—Secretary

The Ben Morrison Chapter has no activities to report for the summer issue. We haven't met since our Christmas party, and no activities are planned for the next several months because of uncertainties caused by the pandemic.

Central Carolinas Chapter

Kevin McCorkle—President

Despite the inability to currently meet as a group due to the on-going public health crisis, we continue to plan for our chapter's hosting of the annual ASA Convention scheduled for April of 2021.

We re-visited our field trip destinations again this year during the planned convention week to assure ourselves of what we believe to be the most ideal window of time for touring. We found them all to be knock-your-socks-off spectacular! Let's hope Mother Nature will agree to the timing next Spring.

Our convention plant sale inventory continues to grow. We are pleased with the diversity of plant selections assembled thus far. Included are hard to find deciduous azaleas from ASA Legacy Project hybridizers Kelly Strickland and Earl Sommerville, complex hybrid seedlings developed by the Perkins (each one unique and so fragrant), many select Gregory Bald seedlings via tissue culture, an extensive variety of evergreen azaleas from Legacy hybridizers and beyond, and a mix of native companion plants. (See Photo 1.) We are thankful to skillful ASA member plantsmen Andy Whipple, Robert Thau, J. Jackson and Lindy Johnson for their contributions to our plant offerings.



The chapter welcomes new members Deborah Pollard of Hillsborough, North Carolina, Amanda Taylor and Zach Spurgeon of Morganton, North Carolina and associate members J. Jackson and Lindy Johnson of Trade, Tennessee (Vaseyi) and Suzanne Medd of Hendersonville, North Carolina (Vaseyi).

Louisiana Chapter

The chapter welcomes new member Larry Dickerson, Kiln, Mississippi.

Northern Virginia Chapter

The chapter welcomes new members Anthony Tohill, Remsenburg, New York, and Mike Hudgins, Hayes, Virginia.

Texas Chapter

David Creech—President

We had great help from members of the chapter and others in Houston in setting up what would have been a fine convention in March. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of the following:

In Houston: Bart Brechter (for overall management of the convention, arrangements with speakers, venues,

and hotel), Vickie Lange (for helping with logistics of the whole convention and fielding registration questions), Kay Rice (plant sale coordinator), Margaret Pfeiffer (for coordinating transportation), and Pam Rundle (for hospitality arrangements).

In Nacogdoches: Sherrie Randall (for registration), Don Parsons (for processing registration funds and refunding them).

The chapter hopes to hold a fall plant sale in Nacogdoches and welcomes new member Kay Rice, Houston, Texas.

Texas Forest Country Chapter

Robert Thau—President

This year was a time that we will not forget in a long time. Our ASA convention was canceled along with the Jasper Azalea Festival, due to the Coronavirus, and we were also told to stay at home till further notice.

Now on the bright side, our Jasper City Park is really coming together; we are a little behind our schedule which was mainly due to weather. We are putting off planting azaleas till this fall.

Our chapter still has our yearly propagation workshop scheduled for June, if we are told everything is safe.

All our members need to always be looking for new members so our society can grow.

Vaseyi Chapter

Aaron Cook, President

The Vaseyi Chapter had planned several events and speakers over the months of April and May. Of course, due to the COVID19 pandemic, everything has been put on hold. It is mid-April and everything it seems is in full bloom here in Hendersonville, NC. We had a series of severe storms pass through late Sunday night, April 12th. Many of our members had some damage to their gardens and some are still without power as of Tuesday April 14th. We are looking forward to being able to gather as a group in the near future. Stay Safe.

The chapter welcomes new member Richard Parker, Hayesville, North Carolina.

At-Large Members

Welcome new at-large members Bradley Powers, Southport, North Carolina; Barbara Roberts, Alpharetta, Georgia; Jacqueline Gonzalez, Tallahassee, Florida; and Felix Dejesus, Plantation, Florida.



Photo Kevin McCorkle

◀ Photo 1—The elusive and mysterious Strickland Hybrid deciduous azalea “Kelly’s Double” being grown for the 2021 ASA Convention Plant Sale inventory.