

Chapter News



Pictured from left to right are Dave Nanney, Landon Davis, Don Hyatt, Marianne Feller, Bruce Feller, Dan Neckel, Joanne Neckel, Leslie Nanney, and Rick Bauer. Photo taken by Wes Morgan.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Rick Bauer, Corresponding Secretary

With the start of spring, nine members opened their gardens for visits by other chapter members. A number of chapter members took the opportunity to visit the Davis and Cosby gardens in the Richmond, VA area on 20 April. An article on the Cosby garden was in the Winter 2014 issue of *The Azalean*. The Cosbys planted over 11 acres of azaleas and rhododendron on their 79-acre property in Rockville, VA. These include a number of beds with Legacy varieties. They have donated their property to Lewis Ginter Garden and it is now known as the Lewis Ginter Nature Reserve. Chapter members toured the garden and then we had a picnic lunch. Many of the attendees also took the opportunity to visit the garden of Landon and Elizabeth Davis in Richmond, VA. Chapter members Bruce and Marianne Feller made the long trip from Long Island, NY, to visit the Bauer garden before joining us at the Richmond area gardens the next day.

Texas Chapter

Sherrie Randall, Vice President

The Texas Chapter supported the Azalea Trail in Tyler, Texas, on March 27th. The Trail began at the Goodman Museum and Gardens, where the Chapter showcased 14 different cultivars comprised of both evergreen and deciduous azaleas. It's always a treat to see the public's reaction to so

many different colors/varieties that they've never before seen. The plant sale in Tyler, Texas, was so successful, the Chapter sponsored two \$500 scholarships to agriculture students at the Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX.

Shown directly below, Texas Chapter President David Creech presenting Stephen F. Austin University student Hanna LeFlore with a \$500 horticulture scholarship.



Shown at bottom of page 30, Texas Chapter President David Creech presenting Stephen F. Austin University student Kathryn Kass with a \$500 horticulture scholarship.



The Chapter also donated azaleas to the Goodman gardens as the February ice/snow storm did take a toll on many of their older azaleas. Thanks to Donna Vandermolen and Joyce Adams for their help in making this such a success!

Texas Chapter photos taken by Sherrie Randall.

Texas Forest Country Chapter

Gabbrielle Woods,
Reporting Member

The Texas Forest Country Chapter attended the annual Azalea festival in Jasper, Texas, on March 20th, 2021. It was the 32nd Azalea Festival and it was dedicated to Robert Thau and his azalea expertise in Jasper. A plaque was given to his wife, Roselea Thau, in the memory of Robert Thau, and for all he has done for the city of Jasper, Texas.

Robert is really going to be missed for the things he did for others and his city. You can't walk through the garden and not think of Robert and his love for all azaleas, may his legacy live on through the members of the Azalea Society.



Vaseyi Chapter

Aaron Cook, President

In Memoriam for Doley Scott Bell Jr.

November 9, 1946–December 24, 2020

Doley was proud of his azalea and rhododendron awards—and even prouder of his family. Most memorably, he contributed countless hours to the betterment of others. Whenever a friend, family member, neighbor—or even a stranger—was in need, Doley offered a helping hand.

Born in East Flat Rock, NC, Doley attended East Henderson High School, North Carolina State University, and Western Carolina University. For decades, he volunteered for the Henderson County Special Olympics. He was an active member of Calvary Baptist Church in Asheville. Until his retirement in 2009, he was employed as the executive director of Carolina Village, a position he held for 33 years.

In his retirement, Doley liked fishing and gardening. Doley was a Charter member of the Vaseyi Chapter of the ASA and served the chapter in many capacities. From the very beginning, he was active leading the Biltmore Estate Garden tour for the 2001 convention. He was a bus captain during the 2008 convention and chaired the Tour Committee for the 2012 convention. Along with his wife, Melody, he loved sharing his garden. Their garden was featured during several national conventions.

He served as Vaseyi vice president from 2005 to 2006, president from 2007 to 2008, and served as treasurer from 2014 until his death.

Doley was awarded the Chapter's highest honor, The Augie Kehr Memorial Award in 2013.