

After 34 years with the Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department (AHTD), Frank retired in July 2008. In 2004, Frank and his wife, Linda, earned certification as Master Gardeners. Subsequently both reached Advanced Master Gardener status and are currently lifetime members of Arkansas Master Gardeners.

After retiring from AHTD in July 2008, Frank was employed as the Arkansas Promotional Director of the Oklahoma/Arkansas Chapter of the American Concrete Paving Association from April 2009 through March 2010 when he returned to retirement to devote more time to his landscape gardening efforts.

Upon retirement, Frank and Linda had opted to stay in Russellville, where they had developed and continued to maintain a fairly extensive garden on their one-acre property. This included a wide variety of plants, mostly perennials and shrubs. Several cultivars of azaleas were included.

Frank and Linda became members of Arkansas Chapter of Azalea Society of America in 2018. In 2019, they made a very difficult decision to abandon their Russellville garden to move to Cherokee Village, AR. They are now located on Lake Thunderbird where they have resumed their efforts to develop an “admirable” garden.

Allen Owings—Director

Allen Owings is a LSU AgCenter Professor Emeritus of Horticulture. While at LSU, Dr. Owings was housed at the AgCenter Botanic Gardens in Baton Rouge (formerly Burden Research Plantation), the Department of Horticulture and the Hammond Research Station in Hammond. He is currently serving as the president of the Louisiana Chapter, Azalea Society of America. Dr. Owings holds degrees in horticulture and plant sciences from Southeastern Louisiana University, Louisiana State University and Mississippi State University. He is currently employed as horticulturist at Clegg’s Nursery in Baton Rouge, LA, and Bracy’s Nursery in Amite, LA, where he works in education, outreach, social media, and new plant production.

A native of Hammond, LA, Dr. Owings now resides there again. He is a life member of the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association and Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research. Dr. Owings belongs to numerous horticulture societies in LA and across the south. He is an active member and former ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church in Hammond. He enjoys gardening, golf, and LSU sports.

Welcome New Members!

The Alabamense Chapter welcomes:

- Roy Redfoot, Phenix City, AL
- Will & Chris Shinn, Opelika, AL

The Ben Morrison Chapter welcomes:

- Michelle & Mark Dean, Landsdowne, PA
- Gavin Locke, Silver Spring, MD

The Central Carolina Chapter welcomes:

- Joel Faircloth, Clemmons, NC

The Louisiana Chapter welcomes:

- Anita Beaumont, Plaquemine, LA
- Lisa L. Boudreaux, Lafayette, LA
- Phyllis & Robert Cornell, Lafayette, LA
- Celia C. Foard, Lafayette, LA
- Leslie Gulliksen, Lafayette, LA
- Douglas Jemison, Lafayette, LA
- Linda Gunter, Forest Hill, LA
- Anita & Rusty Petitjean, Lafayette, LA
- Carolyn Wentworth, Arnaudville, LA
- Babette Werner, Lafayette, LA

The Northern Virginia Chapter welcomes:

- Laura Angle, Springfield, VA
- Jesse Birkenstock, Aldie, VA
- Song Chu, Rockville, MD
- Matthew Silverman, Rockville, MD

New At Large members include:

- William Brown, Patchogue, NY
- Joseph Clark, Calistoga, CA
- Arin Kirkpatrick, Wilmington, DE
- Carmen Mondelli, Haddonfield, NJ
- Kathryn & Douglas Rewerts, Canton, GA
- Richie Steffen, Shoreline, WA
- Rick Peterson, Shoreline, WA
- James Thomas, Ball Ground, GA



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