

# Chapter News

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## **Ben Morrison Chapter**

### ***Budne Reinke, President***

The Chapter's spring garden tours are scheduled at Carol Segree's and Rosa and Bob McWhorter's gardens. Both are in Gambrills, Maryland:

To see azaleas, go on Wednesday April 26 from 11 am to 2 pm. This is a tentative date to be adjusted for best bloom time.

To see the rhododendrons, go on Wednesday May 10 from 11 am to 2 pm. Again, a tentative date and yes, many azalea will still be in bloom.

Drinks will be provided for both. Please bring a dish or a snack to share.

Other garden tours include Faith Bange's garden in Davidsonville, MD. It one of the most outstanding American Daylily Society display gardens in America. Tentative open house on Saturday, June 24, or other times by appointment.

Please contact Budne Reinke, President, Ben Morrison Chapter, ASA, for more details.

## **Alabamense Chapter**

### ***John Torbert, President***

The Alabamense Chapter is working towards the 2024 Convention, which will be Tuesday, April 2 through Thursday, April 4, 2024, in Auburn, Alabama. An "Azalea 101" workshop will take place Tuesday morning. Details still to be determined, but Wednesday activities will occur in and around Davis Arboretum on the campus of Auburn University, as well as three other spectacular private gardens nearby, all featuring amazing displays of deciduous azaleas and companion plants. Thursday will be spent at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, GA, about 45 minutes from Auburn. Callaway Gardens is a world-class garden with mature displays of many rare evergreen azaleas as well as deciduous azaleas interspersed with miles of trails, ponds, and miscellaneous displays. We will also be stopping by Lazy K Farms, previously owned by our good friend Ernest Koone. We will be operating out of the recently opened Courtyard by Marriott in Auburn where rooms are reserved for \$110 per night. Standby for more information.

## **Louisiana Chapter**

### ***Allen Owings, President***

The Louisiana Chapter enjoyed a Christmas luncheon the afternoon of Sunday, December 4,

2023, at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station, Hammond, LA. A great potluck meal was enjoyed by all. We were blessed to have 18 people in attendance.

LSU AgCenter horticulturist Jason Stagg gave a Hurricane Ida update (Fall 2021) on the damage and recovery efforts of the Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden. He discussed trees lost and plants that are now missing—not only due to the hurricane but due to floods in 2016. Garden rehabilitation is beginning with effort to focus on the original intent of the garden with azaleas, natives, and Ms. Margie's favorites. There were numerous holes where pine trees fell and stumps were removed or ground need to be filled. The Chapter will work on sourcing plants over the next few months and try to aid station faculty in replanting during 2023. In addition to Margie's plants, we also seemed supportive of continuing to feature other azaleas from local breeders in this garden as well, and other non-branded introductions. The Chapter is donating \$1000 to on-going Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden efforts at the station.

Jim Campbell led a discussion on specific details about the upcoming 2023 ASA/ARS meeting coming up in Georgia in April. He encouraged all members to attend.

## **Northern Virginia Chapter**

### ***Rick Bauer, Corresponding Secretary***

The Chapter completed a busy year on 4 December with our Holiday Social/Annual Meeting at the home of Chapter President Barb Kirkwood. We had a large turnout of chapter members who enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow members and the delicious dishes available at the potluck luncheon. In the spirit of the season, we were also joined by "Santa" John Kirkwood.

During the business part of the meeting, we elected the slate of officers for 2023. All of the officers for 2022 agreed to continue in their respective roles for an additional year. 2022 was also another good year from the standpoint of fund-raising through our plant sales. The Chapter members voted to donate \$1000 to the Green Springs Gardens' Title 1 program to subsidize garden programs for children in Title 1 schools (those with a



Above, Kathy Jentz and Father Christmas also known as John Kirkwood. Below, Northern Virginia Chapter President Barb Kirkwood addressed the gathering. Photos by Rick Bauer.



high degree of low-income students), \$2000 to the ASA general fund, and \$300 to Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in Springfield, VA, which kindly lets us use their facilities for our meetings.

Finally, we donated \$2000 to Jenkins Arboretum in Devon, PA. We have worked with Jenkins for several years and assisted them in creating a Holly Springs Legacy Garden, which was dedicated in May 2022. We plan to continue this collaboration. Chapter member Mike White of White's Nursery in Germantown, MD, generously donated 123 Satsuki and 3 Kurume azaleas to Jenkins which will allow them to extend their bloom season.

The Chapter was also happy to welcome new members Bryan and Heather Kurey of North Potomac, MD. Our first meeting for 2023 will be held at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church on March 26.

## Texas Chapter *Sherrie Randall, Secretary*

The Chapter held their fall meeting on the campus of the Stephen F. Austin (SFA) University's Pineywoods Native Plant Center. Members were pleased to welcome our newest member, Nery Voss from Chandler, Texas. Ways to increase our membership was one of the meetings planned topics of discussion. Additionally, the Chapter plans to reach out to the Texas Forest Country chapter for potential joint activities and membership.

In our spring meeting, President David Creech had suggested the Chapter sell blueberry plants, along with azaleas, during the Texas Blueberry Festival held in Nacogdoches on the second Saturday in June. After further discussion, members agreed this could be a good money maker. Sherrie Randall offered to host this sale as her blueberry farm is included in the festival activities.

Upcoming events: azalea plantings in the SFA gardens in the near future and a 2023 Spring trip to the Norton Museum and gardens. Both dates to be determined.

The Chapter's slate of officers for 2023 was presented, and approved, with the current officers agreeing to serve another year: President David Creech, Vice President Barbara Stump, Treasurer Donna Vandermolen, and Secretary Sherrie Randall.



Above from left to right, at a recent Texas Chapter's gathering, Treasurer Donna Vandermolen, Don Parsons, President David Creech, new member Nery Voss, Clara Coziar, and Vice President Barbara Stump. Photo by Sherrie Randall.