

Chapter News

Brookside Gardens

William C. Miller III, President

The speaker at the April 5 chapter meeting was **Jim Gears** of Octoraro Nursery. His presentation was a slide show entitled *Favorite Azaleas and Where They Grow*. Jim has been interested in the native azaleas for many years and has become known as a favorite source for all sorts of interesting and well grown plants. The Bob Stewart Door Prize was won by **FloAnn Bowen**, the White's Nursery Door Prize was won by **Janet Miller**, and the beautiful specimen of 'Bobbi Gail' (donated by **Jane Kinzie**) was won by **Mary Rutley**.

The chapter's 30th annual flower show was held May 1-2 and was highly successful. The Best-in-Show Award went to **Yoriko Chin** for her specimen of 'Girard's Hot Shot'. **Bill Miller** amassed the greatest number of points and received the Sweepstakes Award. The annual flower show is one of the chief public outreach activities sponsored by the chapter and much advice was dispensed to the information hungry

- ▼ Yoriko Chin (left) with her husband Ming, standing behind her Best-in-Show specimen of 'Girard's Hot Shot' at the 2009 Brookside Gardens Chapter's 30th annual flower show at Brookside Gardens on May 2, 2009.



Photo: Janet E. Miller

public. For a list of Best-in-Show winners since 1980, see the Brookside Gardens Chapter Awards page at: <http://www.azaleas.org/bgawards.html>.

The chapter's annual azalea sales at the Tilden School parking lot on May 9 and at Brookside Gardens on May 17 were blessed with good weather. Well attended by the public, many plants found new homes.

The annual chapter picnic was held July 12 at the home of **Roberta and Gordon Hagen** in historic Cabin John, Maryland. Very active in the Magnolia and Azalea societies, the Hagens are equally interested in all kinds of plants. The Hagen garden is a collection many years in the making and a landscape worth seeing. The hospitality, the food, and the fellowship were delightful.

As of this writing, the next event will be the annual chapter auction at Brookside Gardens on Sunday, September 20. Historically, this has been a very popular event with the membership and the public—owing perhaps to the wide variety of plants that are available. All of the plants are donations and due to the highly diversified nature of our group, there is no way to predict what interesting plants will grace the auctioneer's stand. While there is always a good selection of azaleas, many rare plants and the occasional exotic plant turns up. In recent years, two such exotics were *Epiphyllum oxypetalum* (night blooming cereus) and *Plumeria* (the source of flowers for Hawaiian leis).

The speaker for the October 11 chapter meeting at Brookside Gardens will be **Bill Johnson**. The title for his presentation is *Hillwood Through the Seasons*. A past chapter president, Bill is a horticulturist and volunteer coordinator for Hillwood, the 25-acre Marjorie Merriweather Post estate (museum and gardens) located in northwest Washington, DC.

The last chapter event for 2009 will be the December 6 meeting. **Jane Kinzie**, the president of Kinzie Farms, will be the speaker and her presentation is entitled *Azaleas—A Local Grower's Perspective*. At this meeting, we will have the annual election of officers and the presentation of the F. P. Lee Commendation for 2009. For a complete list of recipients of the F. P. Lee Commendation, see the Brookside Gardens Chapter Awards page at: <http://www.azaleas.org/bgawards.html>.

Lake Michigan

John Migas, Treasurer

The temperatures here in the Midwest have been way below average, and above average rainfalls have been welcomed by all. Plants have been growing extremely well and summer budset is excellent. The chapter is planning a late summer cutting party for August or early September.

Chapter President **Phil Lanning** along with **John Migas** have been working on updating the roster list, mostly e-mail addresses. Plans are in the making for the Lake Michigan



▲ Margie Jenkins (left) speaks to a group gathered at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station. Also pictured is Louisiana Chapter Member Regina Bracy (right).

Chapter to host a future event here in the Midwest, along with plans for the chapter's first Christmas holiday gathering.

Louisiana

Allen Owings, President

The late spring meeting of the Louisiana Chapter was held on Sunday, May 17 at the home of **Randall and Regina Bracy** in Amite. Boiled crawfish were enjoyed by the 25 members in attendance. Chapter member **Wayne McLaurin** presented **Margie Jenkins** a beautifully framed photograph of her in the azalea garden at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station. A large framed edition was also presented to **Regina Bracy** for display at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station.

The group is actively working on plans for the ASA national convention in New Orleans scheduled for March 14-17, 2010. Information and registration forms will appear in the Winter issue of *The Azalean*.

Northern Virginia

Rick Bauer, Vice President

The Northern Virginia Chapter was busily engaged in final preparation for the national convention in May. We were concerned that the economy would put a damper on attendance, but were all pleasantly surprised with the turnout—153 ASA members attended various aspects of the convention and 118 participated in the garden tours each day. While Mother Nature didn't completely cooperate with us, it didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the par-

ticipants. We'd like to thank those ASA members who were able to attend this year's convention. It was a pleasure meeting you.

The last Sunday in March the chapter met at the George Mason Library in Annandale to hear a presentation by **Don Hyatt** on **Bob Stewart's** hybrid azaleas. This presentation was highlighted by the many beautiful pictures of Bob's azaleas which were taken by **Carolyn Beck**. This segment was later included in the **Bob Stewart/Pete Vines** presentation given the first night of the convention. Bob is a long-time member of the Northern Virginia chapter, and many of the convention attendees were able to see his hybrid azaleas first hand during the garden tours.

On July 12, we held our annual cutting exchange at George Mason Library. This event is eagerly anticipated by our members each year, since it provides them an opportunity to obtain cuttings from a wide variety of azaleas. It also provides us the opportunity to sample **Lee and Carole McElvain's** homemade ice cream and toppings.

Oconee

Ruth Mellon, Secretary

The Oconee Chapter met May 17 with 12 members in attendance. **Frank Bryan** was the main speaker with his PowerPoint presentation on native azaleas. This was an excellent program with superior photographs. Frank also provided a highly detailed handout that could be used by any novice to identify native azalea plants.

After a short break, Frank presented a fun piece on "bugs," again showing his expertise in photography. **Jim Thornton** then showed the group a new version of the Oconee Chapter Web site presentation which can now be seen on "YouTube" (search "Azaleas Oconee").

Vice President **Keri Roberson** conducted a business meeting where such items as programs, membership, and shows, and the annual Master Gardeners Fall Festival set for the first week in October. In addition, the post of Oconee Chapter Newsletter Editor is still open. At the close of the meeting, the members recognized **Allison Fuqua** on his 95th birthday.

Vaseyi

Suzanne W. Medd, Secretary

The chapter held its annual cutting exchange on July 26 at the Bullington Center. **Leeann Connelly-Shearouse**, known as one of the leading authorities on aquatic plants, was the guest speaker. Through the years, Leeann has developed many new tropical and hardy water lilies. It is widely accepted that she was the first to develop the now popular double anemone form of the tropical day-blooming water lily. This was from some crosses she did involving *Nymphaea colorata*, *N. 'Midnight'* and *N. ampla*. Many of today's modern double hybrids come to us through this work.

In 1987, she founded Tropical Pond & Garden, and she also served as a contributing editor and featured columnist for *Water Gardening Magazine*. In 1998, she received international recognition and was awarded the Banksian medal

from the Royal Horticultural Society of London, England, for one of her tropical day bloomers 'Helen Nash'. Today, she is semi-retired and lives at Cedar Mountain, NC.

Other works from Connelly include a series of hybrid water iris called 'Fallen Heroes'. Each iris in this series is named for a police officer killed in the line of duty. Photos of her *Nymphaea* 'Blue Anemone', *N.* 'Joseph Baynard Shearouse', and *N.* 'Stormy Weather' are available online at www.internationalwaterlilycollection.com.

New Members

Ben Morrison

Peter Wharton
4535 Camp Roosevelt Dr.
Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732

Brookside Gardens

Marjorie C. McCeney
510 Prince George St.
Laurel, MD 20707

Lake Michigan

Dan Kunst
601 Port Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Todd and Mary Pierce
1356 Linden Drive
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Louisiana

Peggy Cox
4560 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Carmel Foret
13455 Lynnwood
Hammond, LA 70403

Lois and Maurice Manuel
1003 Greenbriar Rd
Lafayette, LA 70503-3528

Northern Virginia

Kathy Andrews
9434 Dutch Hollow Road
Rixeyville, VA 22737

Marino Brito & Greg Burd
3810 Hunt Manor Drive
Fairfax, VA 22033

Lina Burton
PO Box 373
Aldie, VA 20105

Bill & Val Lorenz
8610 Running Fox Court
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

David & Carolyn Smith
135 Marcella Rd.
Hampton, VA 23666-2509

Jack Stevenson
10406 Headly Ct
Fairfax, VA 22032

Benjamin D. Taylor
109 Valentine Circle
Yorktown, VA 23692

Oconee

Nick Hambrick
75 Townley Rd.
Oxford, GA 30054

Southern California

Olivia I. Lin
27954 Alta Vista Ave.
Valencia, CA 91355

Texas

Carlos R. Carman
513 Eastbourne Place
Memphis, TN 38117-3643

Tri-State

Alycia Church
PO Box 44
Petersburg, IN 47567

Eric Heidenreich
403 Main Street
Evansville, IN 47708

Bill & Diane Layman
4015 Kleitz Rd
Evansville, IN 47720

Donald Pancake
10267 S State Road 61
Oakland City, IN 47660

Matt Wrhel
110 W. Elm St.
Tipp City, OH 45371

Quest for the Yellow Evergreen Azalea

Continued from Page 57.

selecting for vigor and superior evergreen foliage.

I call on all azalea hybridizers in the ASA to join in the hunt for the yellow evergreen azalea. It will take time, experimentation, collaboration, and plenty of luck, but I am certain we can do it! Of course, when we eventually get that race of perfect yellow evergreen azaleas, rock-hardy plants with glossy dark green foliage and strongly fragrant, large ruffled flowers in shades of light lemon to deep gold that also resist petal blight, then we can start working on our next goal, a blue azalea. Hey... we can dream, can't we?

Don Hyatt has been an avid hybridizer of azaleas and rhododendrons for more than 30 years, with a particular interest in deciduous azaleas.

References

- [1] Badger, Bob, "In Search of a Yellow Evergreen Azalea," *The Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*, Volume 42, Number 2, 1988.
- [2] Jones, Jeff R., Ranney, Thomas G., Lynch, Nathan P., Krebbs, Stephen L.; "Ploidy Levels and Relative Genome Sizes of Diverse Species, Hybrids, and Cultivars of Rhododendron." *The Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*, Volume 61, Number 4, 2007
- [3] Kehr, August E.; "Polyploids in Rhododendron Breeding," *The Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*, Volume 50, Number 4, 1996.
- [4] Kehr, August E.; "An In-Depth Look at Evergreen Azaleas," *The Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*, Volume 43, Number 2, 1989.
- [5] McDonald, Sandra F.; personal letters from August E. Kehr, 1987-1996.
- [6] Miyajima, I., Ureshino, K., Kobayashi, N., Akabane, M.; "Flower Color and Pigments of Intersubgeneric Hybrid between White-flowered Evergreen and Yellow-flowered Deciduous Azaleas," *Journal of the Japanese Society for Horticultural Science*, Vol. 60, No. 3, 2000.
- [7] Pryor, Robert L.; "Hybridization Between Evergreen and Deciduous Azaleas," *Quarterly Bulletin of the American Rhododendron Society*, Vol 27, No. 3, October 1973, pp 212-214.
- [8] Santamour, Frank S. Jr, and Pryor, Robert L.; "Yellow Flower Pigments in Rhododendron: A Review for Breeders," *Quarterly Bulletin of the American Rhododendron Society*, Vol 27, No. 3, October 1973, pp 214-219.
- [9] Santamour, Frank S. Jr., and Dumuth, Polly; "Carotenoid Flower Pigments in Rhododendron," *HortScience* 13(4): 416-462, 1978
- [10] Ureshino, K., Miyajima, I., Ozaki, Y., Kobayashi, N., Michishita, A., and Akabane, M.; "Appearance of Albino Seedlings and ptDNA Inheritance in Interspecific Hybrids of Azalea," *Euphytica*, Volume 110, Number 1, Spring, 1999, pp. 61-66.

Northern Virginia Tourism: Tripadvisor has 471,499 reviews of Northern Virginia Hotels, Attractions, and Restaurants making it your best Northern Virginia resource. Northern Virginia Tourism Northern Virginia Hotels Northern Virginia Bed and Breakfast. Northern Virginia Bed and Breakfast. Northern Virginia Vacation Rentals Northern Virginia Vacation Packages Flights to Northern Virginia Northern Virginia Restaurants Things to Do in Northern Virginia Northern Virginia Shopping. Northern Virginia, often referred to as NoVA, encompasses the Washington metropolitan area. The region is made up of counties Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William, independent cities Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas and Manassas Park and major towns Dumfries, Herndon and Vienna. NoVA makes an ideal location for getting away from more tourism-oriented attractions in Washington, D.C. and offers plenty of things to do, from learning about the nation's... Northern Virginia is highly populated, and smashes most all stereotypes of Virginia, that one-time Southern state. Though much of it is considered a suburb of metropolitan Washington, D.C., the inner suburbs are really cities in their own right, with world class attractions and nightlife, and the ensuing sprawl is likewise dense with its own attractions and culinary gems. Northern Virginia, officially the North Virginia Socialist State of America, is a very diverse region in Virginia that seceded from Southern Virginia during the crack boom in the 80's. There are many people of all different shapes, sizes, colors, genders, and races. The area is notable for its complete lack of a unifying culture or coherent regional identity, as many of its residents are Yankee Transients. The closest thing to a national tradition they've got is forgetting that the local Chick-Fil-A... Discover Northern Virginia's best places to dine, shop, travel and entertain. We profile the community's top doctors, lawyers, leaders and personalities; review the area's best new restaurants; and report on the latest cultural, artistic and social happenings. From restaurants and shopping, to local events and activities, our monthly magazine is a must-read for anyone living or working in NoVA. Subscribe. Northern Virginia Magazine. Company. About Us.