

The

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President's Letter

Rick Bauer—Yorktown, Virginia

When I joined the Azalea Society back in 2002, I knew little about azaleas, other than I thought they were beautiful. It's hard to believe that 15 years later, I'm president of the society. While I have learned a great deal in the last 15 years, one of the things I've learned is how little I know! I look forward to continuing my journey learning about azaleas.

I have had a number of years of experience at the chapter level as president or vice-president. I realize that the chapter is where the rubber meets the road. That is where most of the society action occurs. It is important that our chapters not only gain members, but retain them through offering of interesting programs and other activities of value to members. Our conventions are also essentially chapter activities conducted for the benefit of the society as a whole.

The question then becomes, what is the role of the national society? My simple answer is that it should support the high level goals of the society "to foster knowledge and improve standards of excellence with respect to azaleas" and provide support to the chapters and the general membership. Over the last several years, I'm proud that the national society has been taking steps to support these goals. The **Azalea Research Fund** has provided seed money for projects studying issues of concern to our communities. Our journal, *The Azalean*, is an excellent and informative publication. The initiative to digitize the journals and make them easily available to all, including the general public (for older issues), was a great step towards providing information on azaleas to the public. The recent rebuild of the ASA website not only provides a crisp, professional look to our portal, but also makes it much easier to find desired information.

Going forward, I plan to continue to focus on these initiatives, as well as a couple of additional areas. Membership has been a continual issue, mentioned in almost every president's message over the past 15 years. Our new membership chair, Robert Thau, is focused on "exposure," that is getting our message out to the general public. Robert has some exciting ideas which he will share with our chapters in the near future. I hope we can generate new chapters out of our increased membership. We should also grow our use of social media to get out the word. Use of social media will enable us to tap into a younger audience. We must not ignore the many good ideas at the chapter level. We will work to share these successful ideas among the chapters.

The board of directors also approved moving the Legacy Project to the national level. This initiative is an effort to maintain information and true copies of cultivars which may, or may not, have made it into the commercial market. I will be writing an update article on this initiative for a future issue of *The Azalean*. Hopefully a large number of our society members will participate in this project. As part of this initiative, I also hope to strengthen ties between the society, azalea nurseries, and public gardens.

I'm honored to be your president. I'm frankly blown away by the knowledge and abilities of many of the society members with whom I will be working. My goal is to build on the successes of the past. I look forward to your assistance and support.

*Best regards,
Rick*



The Azalea Society of America, organized December 9, 1977 and incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an educational and scientific non-profit association devoted to the culture, propagation, and appreciation of azaleas which are in the subgenera *Tsutsusi* and *Pentanthera* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

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The Azalean

Editor
Barbara Stump

Editorial Advisory Board
Charles Andrews III
Aaron Cook
William C. Miller III

Advertising
theazalean@gmail.com
<http://azaleas.org/adinfo.html>

Graphic Design
Pam Fitch

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Address editorial and business correspondence to:

Editor, *The Azalean*
101 S. Sanders Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75964
E-mail: theazalean@gmail.com

Society Web-site: www.azaleas.org
Mail list: azaleas@yahoo.com

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Deadlines for input for *The Azalean*

July 1—Fall issue; October 1—Winter issue; December 1—Spring 2018 issue

On the Cover

According to author Barbara Bullock, this azalea (MH-GD #199) is near where the label bearing the number "PI 77117" was found on Mt. Hamilton. Researching this PI (Plant Introduction) number, traces it to: 'Kyu-miyagimo', one of the Kurume cultivars from R. Kent Beattie's 1928 plant collection trip to Japan. Thus, it is one of the early parents of the Glenn Dales used by B.Y. Morrison. Photo Barbara Bullock.



Glenn Dale Azaleas on Mt. Hamilton— The Long and Winding Road to Today, Part II.

By Barbara L. Bullock—Riverdale Park, Maryland

[Part II of this article concludes Bullock's article begun in the Spring 2017 issue of *The Azalean*.¹ This portion describes the challenges of curating a large, long-established hybrid group over the past 26 years and some conclusions drawn from that detailed study, Ed.]

Curator's Record-keeping Strategies

While a few were found attached, most of the Bell-numbered labels the author found on the Mt. Hamilton hillside were found in the soil underneath the plants. The wire used to affix the labels had degraded and the azaleas' branches had grown to over two inches in diameter, forcing the wire to break! Made of cut strips of Venetian blinds spray-painted blue, the labels themselves persisted with numbers still legible, since they were scratched into the blue paint (see Fig. 1). They are still flexible today. Every label found has been preserved and is in storage after mapping.

Since 1992, the author has carefully maintained a map with the locations marked where the Bell numbered labels were found. Aided by a few well-trained volunteers, each azalea grouping has been tagged, counted, measured, and photographed. In order to document the planting, the author created a set of new labels using "MH-GD" (Mt. Hamilton-Glenn Dale) beginning at #001 through #400, one for each clonal grouping. Along with her own collection of images, the author used ASA member Dan Krabill's image collection of the Glenn Dale azaleas as a useful tool for this process.² A spreadsheet of results enabled the author to draw some conclusions about Morrison's ideas and goals for the hillside planting. (See also Table 4 for the complete listing of 535 Glenn Dale selections.)³

In some cases, finding a plant that looks like a known cultivar and finding its associated Bell number have prompted the author to make several educated guesses at

identification (see Fig. 2 and 3). For example, every year inside the Morrison Garden at the USNA, the Glenn Dale cultivar 'Antares' produces its beautiful red flowers in November, and so does MH-GD #231, near where the Bell number for 'Antares' was found, also blooming in November. Eighteen of the groups have flowers measuring over three inches in diameter. MH-GD #215 is a large group



▲ Figure 1—Bell-numbered labels.

▼ Figure 2—MH-GD #038 (left) looks like 'Mayflower', MH-GD #058 (right) is probably 'Duenna'.





Photo Barbara Bullock

▲ Figure 3—Glenn Dale ‘Mayflower’ NA 66880-H (left), Glenn Dale ‘Duenna’ 67003-H (right).

▼ Figure 4—Glenn Dale ‘Ivory’.



Photo Barbara Bullock

with white flowers having diameters averaging 3.5" that the author believes could be ‘Ivory’ [see Fig. 4].

Trends and Types of Azaleas Observed

Every April when the Glenn Dale azaleas come into bloom, the color that is represented the most is pink. The author has identified over 50 separate groupings of pink azaleas with single flowers on Mt. Hamilton, each having unique characteristics that distinguish one from another. Morrison was enamored with the pink-flowered clones, which are some of the first to bloom each spring on Mt. Hamilton. The author has found numerous Bell-numbered labels from two significant crosses (seed lots B13582 and B13732). The first, B13582 (*Rhododendron mucronatum* [syn. ‘Indicum Album’] × *R. simsii* “Yeung shaan hung”) yielded Glenn Dale introductions ‘Concordia’, ‘Dawning’, ‘Desire’, and ‘Vision’, all azaleas with pink flowers. To date,

three labels were found on Mt. Hamilton for plants from this same cross that were never introduced; namely, B32363, B32358, and B32352. They are true “sister seedlings” of ‘Concordia’, ‘Dawning’, ‘Desire’, and ‘Vision’.

B13732 is the reverse of this cross (*R. simsii* “Yeung Shaan Hung” × *R. mucronatum* [syn. ‘Indicum Album’]) from which ‘Chloe’, ‘Circe’, ‘Concordia’, ‘Dream’, ‘Modesty’, ‘Temptation’, ‘Tokay’, ‘Echo’, ‘Roselight’, ‘Witchery’, ‘Serenity’, and a personal favorite of the author, ‘Allure’, were selected. At the time of publication, the author has found the Bell numbers for ‘Serenity’ and ‘Modesty’ on Mt. Hamilton, as well as sister seedlings B32318, B32322, B32332, B32335, and B32326 from this same seed lot and can be seen in Table 2 as was shown in Part I of this article.¹ All selections are pink with slight variation in color, form, bloom time, and flower size. Ultimately, ten selections were introduced from B13782, and four more introduced from B13582 seed lots.

The author has found the label for an old Kaempferi cultivar ‘Lohengrin’ underneath one of the large pink azaleas now labeled with the temporary number MH-GD #053. This cultivar was never used in the breeding of the Glenn Dales but was most likely included in the planting for comparison purposes. It is large and tree-like in habit, with brilliant pink frilly flowers, two and one-half inches in diameter, and is attributed to Koster, from around 1920. To this writer, it looks very similar to some of the other pink azaleas that Morrison introduced, such as ‘Tokay’, ‘Dream’, ‘Modesty’, and ‘Chloe’, not far from where the Bell number for ‘Favorite’ (B32261) was found. The author noticed the Kurume cultivar ‘Ima-shojo’ (MH-GD#057) planted near the large group of similar color, MH-GD#216, and ‘Amoenum’ (MH-GD#085) planted next to MH-GD#152, another similarly-colored selection. Like ‘Lohengrin’, neither of these two azalea cultivars were used in Morrison’s breeding work and must have been planted simply for comparison purposes.

Why did Morrison make so many pink selections? When raising azaleas to maturity, the breeder would ideally make a determination of which of these clones stand up to the test of time by comparing plants in close proximity after they



▲ Figure 5—Photos of several pinks found on Mt. Hamilton: MH-GD #001 (left), MH-GD #006 (center), MH-GD #007 (right)

▼ Figure 6—Photos of hose-in-hose azaleas found on Mt. Hamilton: MH-GD #066 (left, 'Magic' maybe), MH-GD #085, probably 'A'



have reached a level of maturity, girth, and spread and have weathered storms, droughts and winters. How do they come back after a tree lands on them or after they have been cut back? Are some more likely to have winter damage than others? Which have good fall color? Which have disease and/or pest resistance? Which will be leggy and which ones will be spreading? Which are easy to propagate? These questions constitute the breeder's rationale for making numerous selections of plants that at first glance, might appear similar. Ultimately, Morrison may not have bred more pink selections as much as it is probable that they may just be stronger and better survivors [see Fig. 5].

Morrison was also intrigued with the plants yielding flowers known to the trade as "hose-in-hose" (abbreviated as H-H); i.e., flowers with two floral whorls nested together and usually lacking a calyx, making the individual flower appear

fuller and "doubled." The Bell numbers that have been found support the fact that most of these are the result of crosses using hose-in-hose Kurume hybrids introduced by R. Kent Beattie in 1928.⁴ Most notably are 'Momozono' (PI77108) and 'Azuma-shibori' (PI77076), used in crosses resulting in several popular Glenn Dales such as 'Fashion', 'Coralie', and 'Coquette'. The seed lot B13615, (Macranthum [syn: 'Macrantha Orange'] × 'Momozono') yielded 26 named Glenn Dales alone; and the seed lot B13613 which used 'Azuma-shibori', yielded five introductions including 'Paradise'. The author has found the Bell numbers for sisters 'Paradise', 'Fanfare', 'Sebastian', 'Fairy Bells', 'Touchstone', 'Melanie', and 'Thisbe' as well as numerous unselected clones from these crosses on Mt. Hamilton, all H-H. The author has identified over 78 groups of azaleas on Mt. Hamilton with hose-in-hose flowers [see Fig. 6].



Photo Barbara Bullock

053 (right, probably Glenn Dale 'Lohengrin').

'Amoenum' (middle), MH-GD #217, probably 'Alabaster' (right).

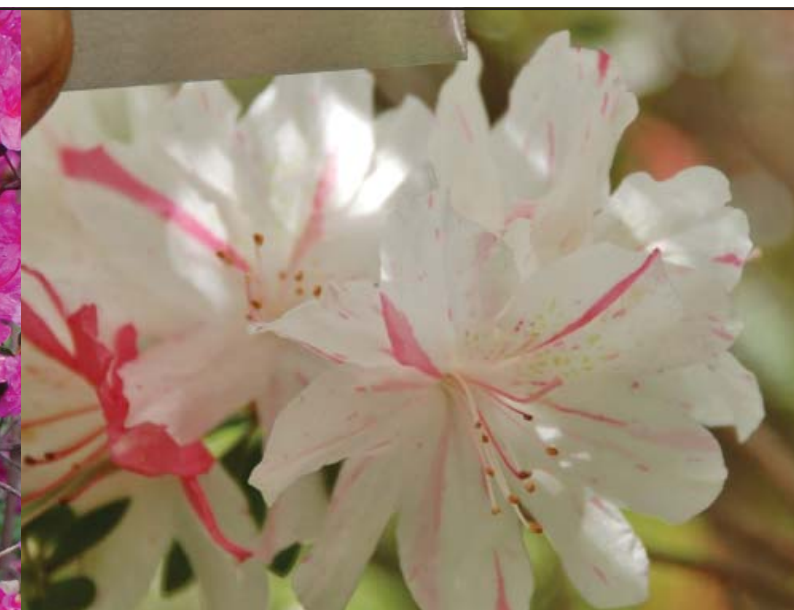


Photo Barbara Bullock

Of these, a few are named cultivars such as 'Ima-shojo', 'Amoenum' and 'Kyu-miyagimo', which, incidentally, are parents of many of the earlier Glenn Dale introductions.

Azaleas Today and Beyond

The azaleas on Mt. Hamilton continue to thrive and surprise us with their longevity, endurance and beauty. But active research of the Glenn Dale azalea breeding program concluded by the end of the 1950s, and new goals in breeding were making their way into azalea research. Older cultivars, such as the Kurume azaleas, had made their way into commerce from Japan early in the 20th century through E. H. Wilson, (known collectively as "Wilson's 50") in 1918, and again in 1928 by USDA plant explorer R. Kent Beattie. The Kurume azaleas have indeed proved to be worthy garden subjects with their multitude of color

choices, beautiful compact growth form and hardiness. They remain in commerce today as one of the benchmarks of successful azalea breeding. The Gable azaleas, results of crosses of *R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense* × *R. kaempferi*, are still found in the trade. Other breeders would incorporate Satsuki parentage into their programs, notably Robert Gartrell with his Robin Hill azaleas. The numbers of azalea cultivars available for sale in the nursery trade had, by the early 1960s, grown to epic proportions. By the mid-1960s, the government emphasis on breeding azaleas had switched focus to breeding smaller-statured azaleas, evidenced by the work of collaborators Guy Yerkes and Robert Pryor on their Beltsville Dwarf azaleas. Today, there is renewed interest in the deciduous North American native azaleas, as well as interest in fall-blooming forms of evergreen azaleas. Needless to say, the world of azaleas in the United States is still expanding, and yet the Glenn Dale azaleas and what they added to our understanding of the program that produced them remain as important as ever.

The author is proud to work among the dedicated staff and volunteers at the US National Arboretum, and will continue to preserve the work that has gone on before us, making the Arboretum a destination for people interested in azaleas and will continue to curate the Azalea Collection with the utmost care. It is the author's hope that at some time in the future these azaleas will then be useful for possible future breeding and selection efforts. Some of the unique older cultivars and species found could even help us to learn more about the genetic relationships among azalea species and the complex cultivars that we grow and enjoy today.

References and Notes

1. Bullock, Barbara. "Glenn Dale Azaleas on Mt. Hamilton—The Long and Winding Road to Today, Part I." *The Azalean*. Spring 2017. 39(1): 4-19.
2. Krabill, Dan. Digital photo study of all known living and collected Glenn Dale azalea cultivars; in CD format, given to ASA convention participants in 2009. His photo collections were very helpful to the author for comparison of cultivars and his study of sisterhood of the Glenn Dale azaleas.
3. Table 4 (available on the ASA website) is a condensed version of an unpublished document found in the files at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station ("Bell Station") that lists *Morrison's 1939 Rhododendron Selections, May, 1939, "selected from plants in the woods planting by Mr. Morrison, Mr. Bradford and Mr. Hope."*—The author expanded the list into an Excel spreadsheet format indicating the list of 535 selections. [The originally submitted spreadsheet size has been condensed by *The Azalean* editor to conserve space, but all information has been preserved.] Mr. Bradford was Frederick Charles "F. C." Bradford, superintendent at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station and Morrison's boss.



Photo Barbara Bullock

▲ Figure 7—Pale pink ‘Caress’

Mr. Hope was Claude Hope, horticulturist/plant breeder, eventually responsible for introducing the “Elfin” series of Impatiens to the nursery industry. (Link to this table is available on the ASA website at: Glenn Dale Azaleas in the Legacy Project pages.)

4. Morrison, Benjamin Y. “The Beattie Azalea Introductions.” *The Azalean*. December 1987. 9(4): 70-75.

Horticulturist Barbara L. Bullock works for the USNA in Washington DC and has been curator of the extensive azalea and rhododendron collections there since January 1990. She was a recipient of the Brookside Gardens Chapter’s Frederic P. Lee Commendation in 1997. She participated in both the Glenn Dale Preservation Project and the Ten Oaks Glenn Dale Project with Dick West and Bill Miller. The author is deeply indebted to Don Voss for friendship and his assistance in reviewing this paper. Much appreciation goes to botanist Stefan Lura for his careful review of this paper, as well. The author would also like to express sincere gratitude to the following people for their assistance and support of the azalea collections over the years: Ron Springwater, Lynne Fitzhugh, Kathryn Powers, Ted Munter, Sam Schwartz, Harold Belcher, Gabrielle Scott, Marshall Miller, Allen MacDonald, Dan Krabill, and Frank Daspit, for volunteering their talents and time in the garden; and to Donald Hyatt and Steve Henning of the American Rhododendron Society and the Azalea Society of America for their fondness for the Glenn Dale azaleas at the National Arboretum. And finally, special thanks goes to the Friends of the National Arboretum for their ongoing and consistent support of legacy collections at the USNA.



Photo Barbara Bullock

▲ Figure 8—Warm pink hose-in-hose MH-GD #192.



Photo Barbara Bullock

◀ Figure 9—Rosy-streaked ‘Pied Piper’.



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The Lost Azaleas of Magnolia Plantation and Gardens

By *Caroline Howell—Charleston, South Carolina*

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens draws thousands of visitors every year, especially during the springtime, because of the vibrantly colored azaleas in bloom. The azalea is a beautiful plant that has deep roots not only in the South but also at Magnolia.

As the historical researcher at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, I was recently charged by our executive director, Tom Johnson, to investigate the history of azaleas at Magnolia. I have researched many things during my time as researcher; however, this was the first time I have researched the history of plants. While researching, I came across Reverend John Grimke Drayton’s Garden Journal dating from 1879. It was in the 1840s that Reverend Drayton, wanting to create an earthly paradise for his Philadelphian wife, Julia, planted azalea clippings he’d received from friends at his plantation, Magnolia-on-the-Ashley, marking the first time the azalea was planted outside of a greenhouse in North America. This handwritten journal lists alphabetically all the azaleas he had in the gardens at Magnolia, along with a few notes.

Additional research yielded a transcribed version of Rev. Drayton’s garden journal located deep in the Magnolia archives. This transcription was done in 1949 by B.Y. Morrison. Using the Morrison transcription and Rev. Drayton’s actual journal, I have been able to compile the following list of Magnolia’s 1879 azaleas (see table). The dates that accompany some refer to the year they were introduced and come from the list compiled by B.Y. Morrison in 1949. Morrison used Rev. Drayton’s Journal to create his

list. [The spellings and gaps in names shown are as given in the Drayton journal, as transcribed by Morrison, Ed.]

After over 130 years, a large majority of these azalea varieties are no longer around. In an effort to preserve the entire history of Magnolia including its agricultural history, I ask that if you or anyone you know have any of these “lost” azalea varieties please contact me at research@magnoliaplantation.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

References

- Drayton, Rev. John Grimke. List of Azaleas in 1879 Garden Journal. Charleston, SC: Magnolia Plantation and Gardens Archives.
- Morrison, B.Y. 1949. Original Azalea Varieties at Magnolia Gardens. Charleston, SC: Magnolia Plantation and Gardens Archives.

Caroline Howell is the historical researcher at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, in addition to being a guide in the award-winning “From Slavery to Freedom” tour. Howell is a 12th generation Carolinian and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. As a graduate of the College of Charleston with a degree in Historic Preservation, being able to uncover the history of every aspect of Magnolia is perfect—from researching the history of plants in the gardens to researching the ancestors of the Drayton family.

▼ Magnolia Plantation and Gardens 1879 List of Azaleas

Admiration (1853)	Alba	Alba Fimbriata
Alexander II (1870)	Alice (1870)	Amoena (1852)
Apollo (1843)	Apollo (Buist’s)	Apollon (1870)
Ardens (1845)	Arthur Waroque	Ascendens
Aurelia (1857)	Barclayana (1854)	Baron de Pret (1861)
Baron de Rothchild (1861)	Baron De Vriere (1857)	Baron Geo. De St. Genois (1872)
Baron Ozy (1868)	Baron Pyke (1863)	Beauty of Europe (Europa) (1855)
Beauty of Reigate (1853)	Bella	Belle Gantoise (1888)
Bernard Andreas (1858)	Bernard Andreas Alba (1868)	Bianca (1854)
Bijou de Leidberg (1864)	Bijou de Paris (1867)	Borsig (1864)
Bouquet de Roses (1861)	Bride (1858)	Broughtoni (1845)
Caeii	Cedo Nulli (1854)	Ceres (1868)
Charmer (1867)	Charles Encke (1861)	Charles Leirens (1872)
Clapham Beauty (1863)	Cleopatra (1853)	Cocarde d’Orange (1872)
Coccinea (1835)	Comte de Haynau (1858)	Contesse de Beaufort (1871)

Contesse de Chambrai (1878)	Contesse de Newport	Contesse Euginia de Kerckhove (1872)
Conqueror (1863)	Copel	Coquette de Flandre (1853)
Coloris Novis (1865)	Columbia (1868)	Comtesse de Chandra (1878)
Comtesse de Flandre (1867)	Constance Van Kiersblick (1868)	Crispiflora Alba
Criterion (1853)	Cromaria	Danielsiana (1834)
Daphne (1871)	Decora	Delicate (1909)
Deutsche Perle (1878)	Diadem de Spa (1861)	Docteur Moore (1873)
Donna Maria (1857)	Duchess Adelaide de Nassau (1854)	Duc de Malakoff (1858)
Duc Adolph de Nassau (1854)	Duc de Nassau	Duke of Devonshire (1849)
Duke of Wellington (1844)	Elizabeth	Emperor
Emperor of Brazil (1876 & 1880)	Ernest Benary (1864)	Estandard de Flandre (1857)
Eugene Mazel (1865)	Exquisite (1844)	Exquisita Pallida (1850)
Exquisita Superba	Eveline (1867)	Extrania (1854)
Fascination	Ferdinand Kergulen	Fielder's White (1846)
Flag of Truce (1863)	Flambeau	Flower of the Day (1861)
Formosa van Houtti (1846)	Francois de Vos (1867)	Frost II
Georgiana	Germrath H. von Martin	Giant of _____ Battles
Gillinham II	Glory of Belgium (1857)	Glory of Sunningham (1854)
Grand Duchess of Barden (1860)	Grandis (1868)	Gross Furstin (1863)
Hercules (1863)	Hermine (1858)	Hirsute Superba
Hortense Verane (1861)	H. Van Aumale	Ignescens (1838)
Imbricata (1838)	Imperatrice De India (1876)	Imperatrice Des Indes (1878)
Indica	Indica Symmetry (1845)	Irma (1857)
Jean Van Volxen (1868)	Jean Vervane (1876)	Jean Verschaffelt (1868)
John Gould Veitch (1874)	Jule Van Loo (1868)	Juliana (1863)
Juliette (1870)	Kingsshornii (1860)	La Glorie (1868)
La Paix (1867)	La Supera (1867)	Lateritia (1832)
Lateritia Alba Superba (1853)	Leana	Liebig (1898)
Little Flanders	Little Bride	Loreley (1860)
Louis Napoleon (1854)	Louise Margottin (1860)	Lucomb's Majestic
McKensiana	Magnifica (1845)	Magnifica Alba Plena
Magniflora (1843)	Maitlandii	Marginata
Maria (1860)	Mdlle. Leonie Van Houtte (1856-57)	Mdlle. Marie Van Houtte
Marie Van Houtte (1870)	Mad. C. De Hamale (1865)	Mad. De Kervhove (1882)
Mad. Alex v. Hardy (1870)	Mad. Iris Lefebre (1870)	Mad. Marie Lefebre (1870)
Mad. Miellez (1853)	Mad. Michael (1863)	Mad. Alex van Langenhove (1870)
Mad. Camille van Landenhove (1870)	Madame Van der Cryssen (1867)	Madame Ambrose Vershaffelt (1861)
Madame Dominique Vervaene (1865)	Meteor (1868)	Mrs. Fry
Mrs. George Merritt (1874)	Murrayana (1846)	Narcissiflora (1860?)
Neptune (1846)	Nonpareil (1867)	Nova Coloros (1865)
Optima	Pallida	Pauline Mardner (1860)
Pelargoniaflora (1857)	Perryana (1846)	Phoenicea (1829)
Prestantissima	President Clayes (1858)	President De. De Ghellinck de Walle (1870)
President Van der Hencke (1865)	Pride of Dorking	Prince Albert (1853)

Princess Charlotte (1863)	Princess Louise (1872)	Princess Mary of Cambridge
Princess Stephanie Clothilde (1867)	Professor Lemoin	Punctate Formosa
Punctulata (1865)	Punculata Variegata (1865)	Purpurea Pleno
Queen of Beauties	Queen of Double Stripes	Queen of Double White (1869)
Queen of Roses	Queen of Scarlets (1869)	Queen of Whites (1861)
Ramentacea (1846)	Raphael (1868)	Reine De Panaches (1859)
Reine des Pays-Bas (1865)	Reine de Roses (1863)	Reine des Beauties (1863)
Reine des Fleurs (1874)	Rhenania (1860)	Rhododendrides
Roi de Beaute (1864)	Roi de Hollande (1868)	Roi des Belges
Roi Leopold (1858)	Rosea Illustrata (1858)	Rosea Magna
Rubra Pleno (1836)	Schoene Mainzrin (1860)	Senateur Kesler
Sigisimund Rucker (1873)	Sir Charles Napier (1854)	Speciosissima (1829)
Splendadissima (1926?)	Souvenir de Maximilliam (1868)	Souvenir de Prince Albert (1863)
Stella (1867)	Thumsdel (1860)	Triomphe d'Exposition (1902)
Triumphans (1854)	Valeria (1876)	Variegata (1834)
Vesta (1843)	Virgin Queen	Vittata (1853-54)
Vittata Crispiflora (1865)	Vivenscens (1854)	Von Gertiana (1849)
Williams II		

ASA Financial Statement - December 31, 2016

Paul A. Beck, Treasurer

INCOME STATEMENT

Year 2016

INCOME

Contributions, Donations & Gifts ¹	\$9,279
Dues Income (Life & Regular)	\$16,793
Seed Exchange	\$681
<i>The Azalean</i> Income	\$2,506
Investment Income	\$1,142
Other Income ²	\$5,774
Total Income	\$36,175

EXPENSES

Grants	\$3,694
Professional Fees	\$7,435
Printing, publications, postage	\$10,472
Other expenses ³	\$5,452
Total Expenses	\$27,053

INCOME – EXPENSES

\$9,122

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2016

ASSETS

Checking	\$5,463
Savings	\$16,375
PayPal	\$397
CDs	\$156,123
ARF Stock Investments	\$24,733
Total Assets	\$203,091

LIABILITIES AND RESERVES

Uncashed checks	\$45
Credit Card Account	\$104
Operating Fund	\$24,177
General Endowment	\$80,383
Research Fund	\$98,382
Total Liabilities and Reserves	\$203,091

¹ Includes a \$5,000 donation received from 2016 Williamsburg convention.

² Includes \$2,524 in CD/bank account interest, \$3,000 in returned fees from IRS for group exemption application and a late \$250 payment from one chapter for the IRS application.

³ Includes \$2,190 chapter dues reimbursement and return of \$2,050 to the chapters for their contributions for the IRS application. Other miscellaneous expenses make up the rest.

Society News

Distinguished Service Awards

Each chapter sponsoring a convention can recognize dedicated members for special service. Five Azalea Society of America Distinguished Service Awards were given by Buddy Lee, the awards chairman, and the Louisiana Chapter at the luncheon at the Bracys' home. Each award concluded with a lovely line of poetry by Ralph Waldo Emerson: "The earth laughs in flowers." Surely this was a Buddy touch.

► ASA Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Regina Bracy in recognition of your outstanding service, loyalty and devotion to the highest ideals of the Azalea Society of America. Your visionary guidance and appreciation of azaleas have inspired others and truly advanced our organization. Thank you for your service as a board member of both the national society and the Louisiana Chapter, and for your distinguished career in horticultural research and extension.

► ASA Distinguished Service Award to Allen Owings in recognition of your outstanding service, loyalty and devotion to the highest ideals of the Azalea Society of America. Your visionary guidance and appreciation of azaleas have inspired others and truly advanced our organization. Thank you for your service as a board member of both the national society and the Louisiana Chapter, and for your distinguished career in horticultural research and extension.

► ASA Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Larry and Mrs. Florence Brown in recognition of your outstanding service, loyalty and devotion to the highest ideals of the Azalea Society of America. Your outstanding career in horticultural research and azalea breeding have inspired others and truly advanced our organization.



Photo Rick Bauer



Photo Rick Bauer



Photo Rick Bauer



Photo Rick Bauer

◀ ASA Distinguished Service Award to Peggy Cox in recognition of your outstanding service, loyalty and devotion to the highest ideals of the Azalea Society of America. Your visionary guidance and appreciation of azaleas have inspired others and truly advanced our organization. Thank you for your service as a board member of the national society and long-time president of the Louisiana Chapter, and for your notable career in horticultural preservation and education.



Photo Rick Bauer

◀ ASA Distinguished Service Award to Jim Campbell in recognition of your outstanding service, loyalty and devotion to the highest ideals of the Azalea Society of America. Your visionary guidance and appreciation of azaleas have inspired others and truly advanced our organization. Thank you for your service as a board member of both the national society and the Louisiana Chapter.



Photo William C. Miller III

Best Article Award

Based on Society voting, Carolyn Beck won the award for Best Article in *The Azalean* for 2016 for her article in the Spring issue, “The Klimavicz Hybridizing Project.” In presenting this to her, we recognized “...her perceptive and informative writing, her depth of research on the topic, and her knowledgeable selection of illustrative photographs.”

◀ Barbara Stump, editor of *The Azalean*, presents to 2016 Best Article award to Carolyn Beck.

Chapter News and New Members

[We proudly publish news of chapter activities as a way of keeping in touch and sharing ideas for meetings and projects. But that news needs to be sent to theazalean@gmail.com to make it into this column. The deadline for the Fall 2017 issue is July 1, 2017. I hope to hear from all chapters by that date. And, welcome to all the new members, Ed.]

Alabamense Chapter

Patrick Thompson, President

The Davis Arboretum hosted its first Auburn Azalea Festival on April 15th. Hundreds of people participated in the event. The arboretum and volunteers from the Alabamense Chapter put on a plant sale featuring native species, Auburn Azaleas, Aromi and Confederate hybrids. Auburn's Natural History Museum brought live animals and artifacts to share. Local makers sold crafts, and student bands provided live music for the event (see Fig. 1). This was an effort to get Auburn one step closer to becoming recognized by ASA as an official Azalea City.

New members: Morgan Beadles and Sally Hodo, Auburn, AL



Photo Patrick Thompson

▲ Figure 1

Louisiana Chapter

New members: Melanie Juul, Covington, LA; Eddie and Cindy Martin, Belle Chase, LA.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary

The Northern VA Chapter started the spring with a new idea from president Barbara Kirkwood: a Mini-Conference in mid-March featuring many short talks and demonstrations on all aspects of gardening. With help from the Hosta Society, Daylily Society, Master Gardeners, and Green Spring Gardens we were treated to ten short talks and a kid's area for hands-on planting.

Barry Sperling spoke on the "Azalea Gardens of Northern Virginia," Don Hyatt on "Native Azaleas: Preserving Native Flora," Joe Gutierrez on "Azaleas for Bonsai," Carolyn Beck on "Propagation of Azaleas," Paulette Royt on "Native

Plants," Sue Clark on "Gardening with our Deer Friends," Charles Kackley on "Planting Trees and Shrubs," Rick Bauer on "The Legacy Project," Janice Kennedy on "Daylilies: The Perfect Perennial," and Dennis Cronley on "Easy to Grow Shrubs." Carolyn Beck and Susan Hedrick worked with the children, teaching them how to plant. (See Fig. 2)

On April 9th the first club meeting of the year featured a talk on "Dirt!" by Barry Sperling, concerning the constituents of good soil for shade plants. VP Lars Larson, secretary Joanne Neckel, and treasurer Paul Beck complete the slate elected last December.

Paul Beck, who has labored for years making the chapter's professional quality website, continued that work on the ASA website, and they both are currently operational and looking great! Dave Banks also made major contributions. To see more:

www.nv-asa.org

www.azaleas.org

We're looking forward to a couple of plant sales and the July 16th cutting exchange, which always brings in distant members looking to expand their collections.

New members: Benny and Carmen Moritz, Hayes, VA; Robert and Lainie Pritchard, Lancaster, VA.



▲ Figure 2

Rev. John Drayton Chapter

Gloria Jean' Williams, Member

At our January 2017 meeting, our club president Tom Johnson encouraged club members to write articles for *The Azalean*.

Before joining the local Rev. John Drayton Chapter of the Azalea Society, my knowledge of azaleas was minimal, limited mostly to 'George Taber', 'Mrs. G.G. Gerbing', and 'Formosa'. Imagine my surprise to discover that azaleas were members of the same *Rhododendron* family that my husband and I had observed in the mountains of North Carolina growing wild along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

A number of hybridizers have developed many new varieties of rhododendrons that can tolerate the heat and humidity in the Charleston area. Magnolia Plantation and Gardens has introduced many of these rhododendrons along with a dedicated “Native Azalea Garden”, an extensive Encore® Azalea collection, and hundreds of Tom Johnson’s azalea seedlings.

Our personal collection of azaleas consisted primarily of ‘George Taber’ and ‘Mrs. G.G. Gerbing’, but the collection is now expanding to include many of these new hybrids. What a great hobby! We expect the next blooming season to be glorious. What a great place to be any time of year.

New members: Gregg and Kelli Huff, Colleen and Raymond Martin, Janis and Tom Orshal, and Susan Straub, Summerville, SC; Gracie and Veronica Smiley, Wadmalaw, SC, and Zach and Jacqui Jeanes and Jay and Helen Walker, Charleston, SC.

Texas Chapter

Sherrie Randall, Secretary

Texas Chapter members celebrated the arrival of Spring with three separate activities in March. First up was a trip south to Jasper county in search of native azaleas. Led by local native plant experts Jerrell and Darrell Durham, members trekked through uninhabited lands to view these beautiful flowering natives. One area rewarded us with a spectacular display of spicebush swallowtail butterflies feasting on the flower nectar (See Fig. 3). Mid-March found several members back in Jasper county supporting the Jasper Azalea Festival now in its 29th year. The chapter hosted a booth selling both evergreen and deciduous azaleas. Our biggest seller...the deciduous azalea. The month concluded with ten members attending the annual convention in Hammond, LA.

New members: Pat and Linda Alvey, Stephanie L. Franklin, and Anne Mauer, Tyler, TX; Jeffrey Heilers, Houston, TX; Bill Patton, Nacogdoches, TX; Joanie Kochanek, Heidi Meaux, and Paul Smith, Jasper, TX; Mabelle McDowell, Jacksonville, TX.

Vaseyi Chapter

Suzanne Medd, Secretary

Our chapter is getting ready for field trips in April-May. We will visit the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville and the Biltmore Estate gardens to visit the native and evergreen collections. The Vaseyi Chapter also voted to continue to fund the free azalea brochures at the arboretum. All but one of the 17 azaleas native to the US are in the National Repository Collection, which grows along the Bent Creek at the arboretum. Several founding members of the Vaseyi Chapter were instrumental in developing this popular garden site.

New members: Jim and Tami Wagner, Landrum, SC.

Tri-State Chapter

New members: Eugenia and Thomas Kraemer, Dix Hills, NY.

At-Large

New At-large Members: Judy Benson, Becker, MN; Verna Buhler, Duncan, BC, Canada; Ken Cox, Glendoick, Glencarse, Perthshire, United Kingdom; Christopher Fallacara, Levittown, NY; Richard Grenier, Minot, ME; Carolyn Griffin and Jennifer Hildebrand, La Fayette, GA; Melissa Olive, Anderson, SC; Jeff Tucker, Millis, MA; Amy Webb, Lee, FL; John and Louise Wellemeyer, Princeton, NJ.

▼ Figure 3



Photo Sherrie Randall

2017 Convention Report—Fun Down on the Bayou

By Barbara Stump—Nacogdoches, Texas

Our Louisiana hosts certainly made our time “down on the bayou” fun and—of course—informative. You would expect nothing less from our hosts at the LSU AgCenter. Led by the center’s director and Louisiana Chapter president Allen Owings, our friends there specialize in hospitality as the best “companion” for learning about azaleas and their care.

Each night we were treated to receptions, wonderful local cuisine, and the opportunity to renew azalea friendships. Convention sponsors included Plant Development Services, Inc. and Bracy’s Nursery. About 90 people attended the three nights and two days of events in and around Hammond, LA. It was nice to have most attendees at the same hotel for socializing.

Receptions March 30 and 31

We were welcomed to Hammond on both nights at the LSU AgCenter with libations and catered meals. The plant sale was also Thursday night. Many thanks to Ronnie Palmer of Azalea Hill Gardens and Nursery in Arkansas for bringing a number of Huang hybrid and other unique azaleas for us to purchase (see Figure 1). Other local companion plants were available as well. There were also gift starts of the latest dwarf Encore® Azalea, ‘Autumn Bonfire’™ and other new offerings from the Southern Living® plant collection.

Hammond’s AgCenter, located on nearly 150 acres, is one of 18 LSU AgCenters across Louisiana, and specializes in landscape horticulture, including plant selection, fertility, weed control and plant growth regulators. Scientists there evaluate over 800 ornamental plants each year in the “largest garden display in Louisiana.” The illustrated brochure with an excellent map of the grounds made it easy to find different display beds, including the Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden beds. Alas, the warm winter across the South meant that most of the azaleas had already bloomed.



Photo Sherrie Randall

Garden Tours

Our first bus ride to historic St. Francisville, LA, brought us to an incredible tour of **Imahara’s Botanical Garden**. Begun in 2003, this 55-acre marvel is in a constant state of development by Mr. Walter Imahara. He definitely believes in shaping plants and must have an incredible tool-sharpening shop. His daughter, Wanda Chase, one of nine children and a landscape architect, guided my group. She told of how her father enjoys “poodling” all kinds of plants. This is a typical Japanese garden technique that we know as topiary (see Figure 2). Everywhere we looked there were plantings with unique forms such as a grouping of six-foot-tall standard crape myrtles, with foliage weeping from the tops. Mr. Imahara is constantly changing planting groups and shaping his plants. His azalea hillside was at least 30 feet tall and stretched for hundreds of feet, but most of the 3,000 azaleas had already bloomed. Since the land was already very hilly, he was able to create nine ponds, each named for one of his children (see Figure 3). In his spare time, he carves haiku into wooden plaques. Their wonderful video presentation described his Japanese-American family’s experience of

▲ Figure 1—Opening night plant sale. Ronnie Palmer and Joe and Donna Coleman.

▼ Figure 2—Walter Imahara with topiary holly—the three tiers symbolize Heaven, Man, and Earth.

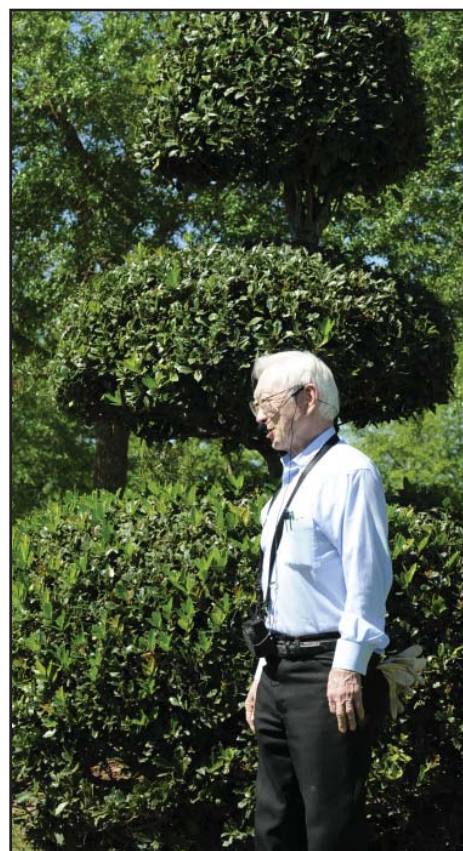


Photo William C. Miller III

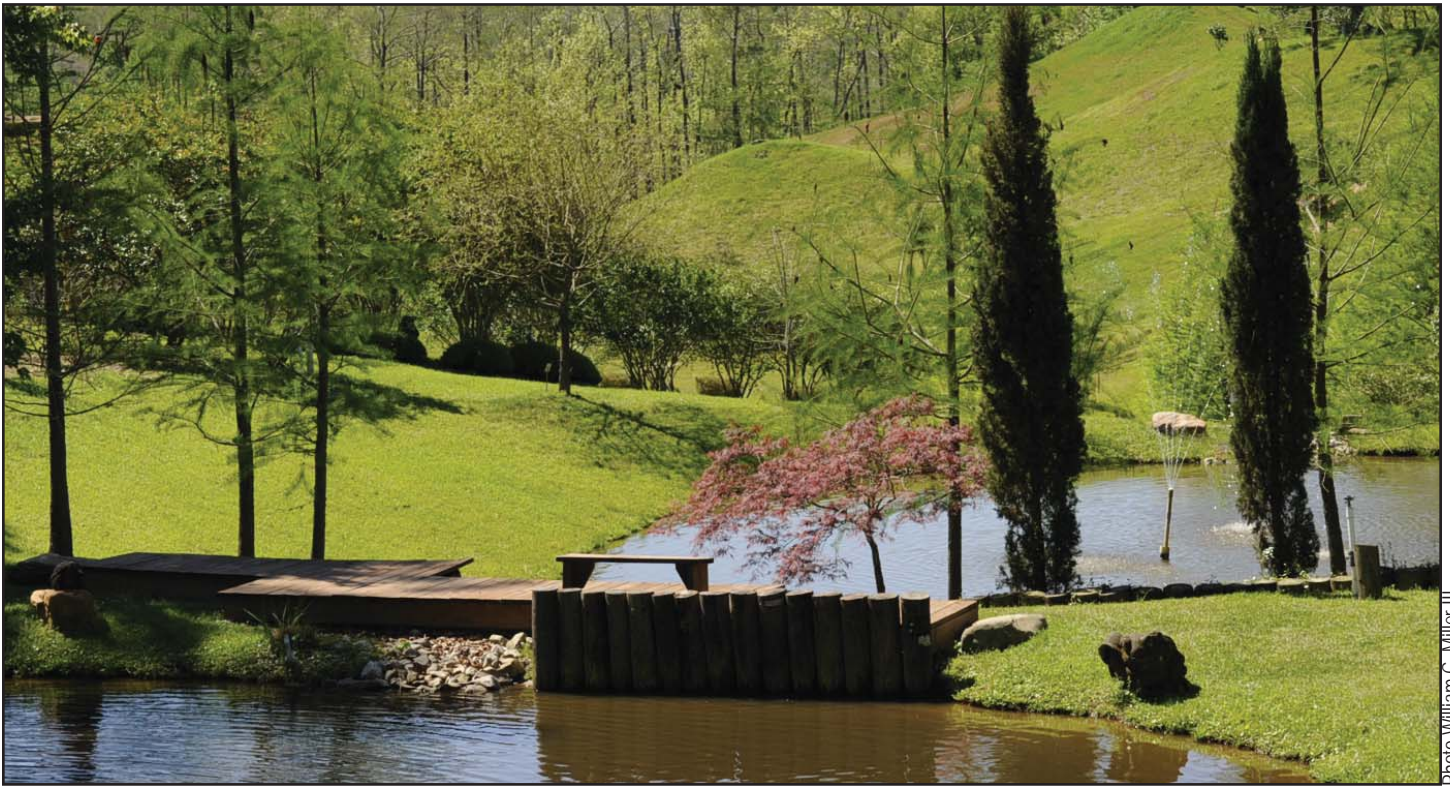


Photo William C. Miller III

▲ Figure 3—Ponds, artful landscaping, and a zig-zag bridge all meant to “slow down” the visitor to contemplate the beauty of the garden.

▲ Figure 4—View of Rosedown Plantation down the “Live Oak Alley.”



Photo William C. Miller III

internment during World War II and his subsequent dedication to and love of America. Some of his carvings reflect sayings like “It can’t be helped” or “Make the best of it.” This amazing family welcomes visitors Saturdays and

Sundays for guided tours. To learn more, visit <http://imaharasbotanicalgarden.blogspot.com/>

Next we traveled to historic **Rosedown Plantation**, now owned by Louisiana State Parks. This 25-acre

1800s site has a Southern classic “Oak Alley” of live oaks and collections of huge (14’ plus!) Southern Indica ‘Pride of Mobile’ azaleas, a series of very formal rose and perennial gardens in parterres, and a historically correct



Photo Barbara Slump

▲ Figure 5—Herbaceous parterre at Rosedown Plantation. Due to predatory wild animals, the hedging is now Yaupon holly instead of boxwood.

► Figure 6—Buddy Lee’s “new arboretum” irrigated hoop area.

reconstruction of the original in-ground “hot house” in which tropicals were kept during the winters and ladies’ teas were held (see Figures 4 and 5).

Technical Sessions

After dinner Friday, three speakers reminded us of important aspects involved in growing azaleas and other plants. Hopefully they will contribute these as papers for future issues of *The Azalean*.

Dr. Rodrigo Valverde presented “Virus Identification in Azaleas.” His research was funded in part by the ASA Research Fund and covered viruses that cause variation in many kinds of ornamental plants.

In “Growing Disease Free Azaleas” Dr. Mark Windham from the University of Tennessee had us laughing as he





Photo Andy Whipple



Photo Barbara Slump

▲ Figure 7—Fun times at Buddy and Dixie Lee’s “Transcend Nursery.” Susan Bauer, J Jackson, and Rick Bauer do the “Second line dance” (left to right).

helped us understand that at the very least we should demand plants with white roots in nurseries. Yes, check the root ball at the bottom of the plant before you buy.

Dr. Neil Odenwald’s lecture invited us to really “see” our gardens and landscapes and to plant and care for them with design principles in mind.

Nursery Tours

Saturday, April 1 we visited three nurseries and saw what it takes to get our favorite azaleas to market. All three are well-known to the ASA and were in the vicinity of near-by Covington, LA.

First off, we saw **Buddy Lee’s new arboretum**. He said these 60 acres have been a nursery for 100 years, but the place was in immaculate condition, with plastic cloth between long rows of many kinds of plant trials, watered by state-of-the-art irrigation (see Figure



Photo William C. Miller III

▲ Figure 8—A dear friend asked where the “dancing girls” were in *The Azalean*. Here they are with their friends.

► Figure 9—Bracy’s Nursery 150-acre growing area is zero discharge, with all water and other materials recycled on-site.

6). All of this under pines planted for cover. He uses this as an “evaluation nursery” for his new seedlings. Walking through the wide aisles between the tall pines inter-planted with heat-tolerant rhododendrons was a big treat for those of us from the South where elepidotes don’t tend to thrive. And, of course, we saw a number of deciduous azaleas being trialed there, thanks to Buddy’s long relationship with local plant guru John Thornton.

From there we went to **Transcend Nursery**, Buddy and Dixie Lee’s home place and site of more seedlings under evaluation and *many* other larger plants. We had plenty of time to see everything and enjoy Lee hospitality. They not only had gumbo for a mid-morning snack, but also Cajun music played by Mr. Ernie’s Band on their back porch, and Mardi Gras beads and cups for everyone. We even danced a “second line dance” (see Figures 7 and 8).

Then the buses went on to **Bracy’s Nursery**, owned and operated by Regina and Randy Bracy. They began in 1986 selling peach trees, now



Photo Barbara Stump



Photo Eddie Martin



Photo Barbara Slump

▲ Figure 11—Miss Margie Jenkins' favorite azaleas.

◀ Figure 10—Buddy Lee and Miss Margie at Jenkins Farm & Nursery.

grow a wide palette of plants (750 individually identified kinds), own the largest container nursery (150 acres) in Louisiana, and ship 35 semi-trucks a week to independent garden centers throughout the Southeast. Randy gave us the statistical rundown, which was mind-boggling, and then he and Regina each did a guided tour on the two buses throughout the site. They are licensed to grow a number of well-known azalea brands, including Encore® (see Figure 9).

But their hospitality didn't end there... We drove across the road to their home and were treated to a wonderful luncheon in their patio garden. This area is a perfect spot for hosting such large parties, and Buddy Lee and J Jackson took advantage of the grand environment to present ASA Distinguished Service Awards to very deserving local LA Chapter members or local people who have made incredible contributions to the ASA for years (see Awards Page for photos).

Our final stop, just down the road, was to **Jenkins Farm & Nursery**. Miss Margie described some of her current favorite azaleas, both evergreen and deciduous, and then let us wander around. Finally, we saw blooming azaleas, mainly from the Robin Hill Hybrid group, which she taught this writer about years ago. This is a very reliable group in the South, late-blooming with large flowers, developed by Robert Gartrell. Miss Margie is a truly gifted propagator and nurserywoman who will share her knowledge and tricks with anyone who shows an interest. We were also treated to another dessert courtesy of her family, and a visit from the nursery's resident China goose (see Figures 10 and 11).

Annual Meeting

Saturday night April 1 we met in downtown Hammond at the Mezzanine Event Hall for the annual meeting and banquet—a lovely space, with great catering, libations, and a stage with excellent projection equipment. The annual meeting began with the formal announcement of the new slate of officers (see Figure 12), the award for the best article in *The Azalean*, and a



Photo Barbara Slump

▲ Figure 12—ASA officers, (l to r): treasurer Paul Beck, out-going president J Jackson, president Rick Bauer, vice-president Charlie Andrews, secretary Leslie Nanney.



Photo William C. Miller III

▲ Figure 13—Paul Beck (l) presented J Jackson (r) with a commemorative President's gavel for his service 2013-2017.

special award to J Jackson in recognition of his four years as president. Hale Booth described the Azalea Research Fund work, and webmaster David Banks and ASA treasurer Paul Beck gave a live demonstration of the beautifully upgraded Azalea Society website. Looking forward, Allen Owings and Gerald Klingaman announced next year's convention venue will be in Little Rock, AR, April 5-7, 2018. (Watch for more information coming in the fall and winter issues of *The Azalean*.) The evening ended with illusionist and psychic David Himelrick astounding a few members by "reading their minds."

Special Thanks

Convention organizer Allen Owings gave me the following list of people to recognize, without whom the convention would not have been so fun and educational. His name should be at the top.

LSU AgCenter Volunteers: Jason Stagg, Yan Chen, Gina Hebert, Paul Wilson, Ed Bush

Nursery Hosts: Margie Jenkins, Jenkins Farm & Nursery; Randall and Regina Bracy, Bracy's Nursery; Buddy and Dixie Lee - nursery and home visit hosts

Entertainment: David Himelrick

Plant Sales: Ronnie Palmer, LSU AgCenter, Buddy Lee, Plant Development Services Inc.

All staff at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station Convention Tote Bag: Plant Development Services, Inc.

Speakers: Neil Odenwald, Rodrigo Valverde, and Mark Windham

Tour Hosts: Walter Imahara and Family, Trish Aleshire (Rosedown Plantation)



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