

Aug 15 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

I was happy to see many of you at the cutting exchange last weekend. Once again it was a great event with good food, the camaraderie of other azalea enthusiasts and a great selection of plants and cuttings. **Larry Martin** also provided a workshop on putting cuttings which was very informative. We were pleased to have **Joe Coleman** come up from **Atlanta** and **Harold Belcher, Carol** and **Dale Flowers, Gabrielle** and **Bill Scott** and **Diane Moritz**, members of the **Ben Morrison Chapter**, join us for the event.



Members enjoy lunch before the cutting exchange – Photo by Barry Sperling



Joe Coleman places his cutting contributions on the table - Photo by Barry Sperling

Business Meeting - We also had a very productive business meeting. The membership voted to join the other three sponsors of the 2016 convention in contributing an additional \$1000 seed money each for the convention. Deposit requirements in advance of revenue had drawn down our seed money below a level at which the convention committee was comfortable. The membership also approved empowering the Executive Committee to approve an additional \$1000 if required (it is considered highly unlikely this will be required). The budget of the convention is designed to be self-sufficient (i.e., it will pay for itself with user fees and no subsidies). The seed money will be reimbursed from registration and user fees. Proceeds from the plant sales will be considered excess revenue and will be distributed among the four sponsoring chapters.

The chapter also approved the expenditure of \$400 as our share of an initiative to make the ASA and all of its subordinate chapters, current and future, a 501(c)3 organization. This is currently the case for national, but not always the case for the chapters. This status is important in that it allows donations to the chapters to be tax deductible and any new chapters in the future will gain this status upon becoming part of the **ASA**.

The Azalean - I also provided a status on publication of **The Azalean**. Our journal has been behind schedule for a couple of years. At the **Nacogdoches Convention**, the **Board of Directors (BOD)** approved the formation of an **Azalean Advisory Committee** composed of **Barbara Stump, Texas Chapter, John Migas, Michigan Chapter** and myself. We met with the editors (**Connie Cottingham** and **Mike Sikes**) to discuss issues which were precluding timely publication. We agreed upon a process, timeline and plan for getting **The Azalean** back on schedule by the end of the year. Part of this agreement was to produce a double issue in lieu of separate Spring and Summer issues. Since Nacogdoches, **Mike Sikes** experienced some serious medical issues which resulted in an additional publication delay. In light of these new issues, **Connie** and **Mike** determined they could no longer serve as editors after the double issue is published (expected in August). The good news is that **Barbara Stump**, a former editor of the Journal (and **ASA**

Vice-president) has agreed to be **Editor** and **Pam Fitch**, another former editor, has agreed to be **Graphics Designer**.

Paul Beck also provided an update on **The Azalean** digitization effort. This was another initiative approved by the **BOD** in **Nacogdoches**. A **Digitization Team** composed of **Dave Banks, Paul Beck, Susan Bauer** and myself, was established to accomplish the task by obtaining copyright releases from authors, digitizing and posting articles from past **Azaleans** online, and managing the process going forward. An additional benefit of this initiative is that copies of **The Azalean** will now be available for members in digital form online when the issue is submitted to the publishers, which is normally at least a month prior to a member receiving the journal in the mail.

Efforts have been underway since the convention and the results of this effort are currently visible on the **ASA** website by clicking [here](#). You must have an ASA login to access the articles. Any articles which are not viewable are either because they have not yet been digitized and/or we have not received copyright release for the article from the author.

[As a separate note from **Susan -If you have authored any articles in the past, you will receive a copyright release form. Please sign and return it as soon as possible so that we can move forward with this initiative.]**

Lars Larson also spoke about our next event, our annual **Azalea Auction and Sale** and passed around a sign-up sheet for people who were willing to volunteer for set-up on Friday, 25 September or help with the auction/sale on Saturday, 26 September at **Kirkwood Presbyterian Church**. If you are able to help on either or both days, please contact **Lars** at lars.larson@cox.net or 703-277-3441.

Barry Sperling also asked members to submit articles for **The Azalea Clipper**. **Barry** is doing a great job, however he currently does the lion's share of writing for the **Clipper**. Please consider writing an article. It doesn't have to be long and can be on any azalea related subject (e.g., gardens (public or private), hybridizers, companion plants etc.). Pictures are also always appreciated. Contact **Barry** if you have any questions bsperling@cox.net or 703-765-7062.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Below is the schedule for the remainder of 2015

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Sep 26	Azalea Auction	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
Oct 17	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	TBD
Oct 18	Chapter meeting with speaker and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
Dec 6	Holiday Social/Annual Meeting	NV-ASA	Carolyn and Paul Beck's home

Other Activities/Notes –

ASA-ARS Convention 2016 –

Plans for the joint **2016 ASA-ARS Convention** continue to take shape. We have contracted with the hotels and bus company, and finalized the gardens to be visited as well as the speakers. We think that the **Williamsburg** location will provide a lot of opportunities to enjoy historic and recreational venues in addition to the full schedule of events as part of the convention. This link will take you to the [convention website](#) in progress.

Legacy Hybridizers will be featured (along with other special azaleas). **Carolyn Beck** has volunteered to coordinate the chapter efforts in identifying, propagating and raising azaleas for the convention.

The spreadsheet for the azaleas and growers for the **2016 Plant Sale** has been completed. Revisions will be made this spring as we evaluate the success of last year's cuttings. The final list will be made available on our website at least a month before the convention.

A limited number of cuttings will be started this year, so there is one last chance to offer your suggestions. If you have recommendation for some really exciting azaleas, please let **Carolyn** know.

We would like as many of our group to participate in the chapter's efforts to provide 2000 plants. There is a wide range of activities...hopefully something for everyone. If you can help with any of the activities on the [linked list](#), please contact **Carolyn**.

Miscellaneous –

The Azalean – The editors of **The Azalean** depend on member submissions of articles of interest to the general **ASA** membership. If you have an article to share, send it to them at theazalean@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents. Illustrations are highly encouraged and should be at least 4 x 6 inches at 300 dpi.

Speakers – We continue to strive to provide speakers on topics of interest to our members. If you have heard, or are otherwise aware of, speakers who might be of interest to our chapter, please contact **Lars Larson** at lars.larson@cox.net or 703-277-3441.

Nurseries – A number of our members own nurseries or otherwise propagate azaleas for sale to the general public. A list of these members and their nurseries is located on our website at [Member Nurseries](#).

I hope you have a great month of August and that it cools off a bit. Also, we would appreciate any volunteers to assist with our auction and sale in September. I hope you will be able to help out.

Rick