

1995 Convention and Annual Meeting

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North Beach, Maryland

The 1995 Convention and Annual Meeting of The Azalea Society of America was hosted by the Brookside Gardens Chapter, May 4-7, 1995. The convention headquarters was in Rockville, Maryland, a suburb to the north of Washington, DC. Nearly perfect weather and azaleas in full bloom provided a treat for the nearly 100 members who attended.

The convention began on Thursday, May 4, with welcoming remarks by convention coordinator Bill Miller. The first formal speaker, Phil Normandy, then provided a prelude to the Friday garden tours in his talk "Glimpses of Brookside Gardens and McCrillis Gardens" (which appears in this convention issue of **THE AZALEAN**). Next a talk "The Native Azaleas of Eastern United States" was presented by plant collector, hybridizer, and nurseryman Jim Plyler. The final event of the evening was a Roundtable Discussion on **THE AZALEAN** moderated by the editor (an article describing this discussion appears in this issue). All of these events of Thursday evening were well attended considering the lateness of the evening.

Friday morning attendees visited two gardens, the private garden of Bill and Janet Miller and the public McCrillis Gardens.

Lunch was served at the Landon School, a private school in Bethesda, MD. The grounds of the Landon School includes the two-and-one-half-acre Perkins Azalea Garden, a Washington, DC, area attraction each spring. After lunch, time was available to visit the azalea garden and to view the Brookside Gardens Chapter Azalea Show which is held annually in conjunction with the Landon School Azalea Festival. It is of interest to note that former editor of **THE AZALEAN**, Dr. Charles Evans, received an award for "Best in Show" and Bill Miller won the "Sweepstakes" for having the most blue ribbons.

A visit to the Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, MD, completed the garden tours on Friday. Following the social hour and opportunities for plant purchases, the Friday evening speakers provided overviews of the Saturday garden tours. First, Barbara Bullock, Curator of Azalea Collections at the U.S. National Arboretum, presented "The National Arboretum Azaleas—A Four Year Retrospective". Next, Dick West presented "The Ten Oaks Azaleas and the Glenn Dale Distribution Project". The last talk of the evening was by Keith Suddreth, one of the recipients of the Ten Oaks cuttings, "Broyhill Walking Park—A New Home for the Glenn Dales". All three Friday evening talks appear in this issue of **THE AZALEAN**. Following the talks, a plant auction was held. Brookside Gardens Chapter President Carol Allen announced that the proceeds of the auction would be made available to **THE AZALEAN** to provide supplemental funds for publishing more color photographs.

Saturday garden tours were to the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC, and to the Ten Oaks Nursery in Clarksville, MD.

The Saturday evening banquet was held at the convention headquarters, The Woodfin Suites. Following the banquet dinner,

Mike Raupp, Chairman of the Department of Entomology at the University of Maryland and an advocate of integrated pest management, spoke on "Why Are Azaleas So Pest Prone and What Can Be Done About It?". An article based on this talk appears in this issue of **THE AZALEAN**.

The last event of the day was the Annual Meeting, led by President Malcolm Clark. Complete minutes of the Annual Meeting are on page 71 of this issue. Highlights of the Annual Meeting included the presentation of a Distinguished Service Award to William C. Miller III, the award of the Prize for Best Article in **THE AZALEAN** for 1994 to Steve Brainerd and the announcement of the results of the election of officers:

Steve Brainerd, President
Jim Thornton, Vice President

Rosalie Nachman, Director
Fred Minch, Director
Art Vance, Director

It was announced that the Convention for 1996 will be hosted by the Dallas Chapter. □

THANKS TO THE BROOKSIDE CHAPTER FOR HOSTING THE MEETING

Brookside Garden Chapter convention logo and tote bag decoration by Barbara Bullock

