

Banquet Business Meeting

**Radisson Admiral Semmes, Mobile, Alabama
April 2, 1999**

Robert (Buddy) Lee opened the evening and thanked the Mobile area, Maarten van der Giessen and the Louisiana Chapter.

Bob Stelloh (Treasurer) spoke of the e-mail list and the Internet, with our address as azaleas.org. Bob also said that he would like to receive dues by e-mail, and credit card.

After dinner, Buddy Lee introduced Maarten van der Giessen to auction several donated plants and art work. The sale was very successful.

Buddy then introduced the speaker Jim Berry, Plant Development Services Inc., Consultant for Flowerwood Nurseries. He spoke on "Commercial Production of Azaleas" stressing the education of the public from red, pink, and white azaleas to the refinement and betterment of the azalea.

Jim Thornton opened the business meeting speaking of the first introduction of the Encore Azaleas. He mentioned that he wrote articles for "Georgia Know How" magazine, which established the good relationships with Pike, Flowerwood, and Van der Giessen nurseries.

Jim congratulated the hosts -- tours and lunches. He presented the annual prize for the 'Best Article Award,' printed in **THE AZALEAN** this past year, to Dr. August Kehr for "Memory of Fred Galle." Jim announced a new discount program for dues paid early, multi-year, and e-mail will soon be implemented. The Board of Directors approved funding Bob Stelloh, Don Hyatt, Art Vance, and Barbara Stump

for the development and future of a more-detailed azalea website. Jim stated that this organization should help the wholesale nurseries and retail outlets in the promotion of the new azaleas. The Board of Directors has established a Research Committee with Malcolm Clark as Chairman.

Jim presented a "Certificate of Recognition" to Barbara Bullock for her tireless work and dedication to the Azalea and Rhododendron Gardens at the National Arboretum. Barbara responded with thanks and an invitation to the Arboretum. An "Exceptional Service Award" will be given to Bee and Bob Hobbs for their many years of devotion to **THE AZALEAN**. Jim announced an endowment program with "Clark/Chandler Limited Partnership." Jim requested the chapter presidents make a personal call and remind non-renewal members of dues, saying that most people just overlook or forget. The ASA has openings for a Secretary and an Awards Chairman.

Jim Thornton then introduced the incoming President, Bill Bode. Bill thanked all who voted for him. He thanked the Mobile area, the Louisiana Chapter, the convention crew, especially Jerry and June Ladner (of registration) and Jim Thornton for their excellent contributions. Bill stated that we need to move forward and recruit new members. As yet, there is no sponsoring chapter for next year. Bill then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Bryan, Secretary



Billy Lucas describes the venues for the garden and nursery tours.



Outgoing President Jim Thornton presents Certificate of Recognition to Barbara Bullock, Curator of the U.S. National Arboretum's Azalea and Rhododendron Collections.



Incoming President Bill Bode encourages members to support the Society and recruit new members.



*Maarten Van der Giessen auctions off one of two of Jim Campbell's donated artworks. This was Azalea 'Autumn Rouge' which appeared on the cover of the December 1998 issue of **THE AZALEAN**, with Malcolm Clark kindly displaying the work.*